METRO / A21

First photo of Rodrigo Santino, newborn son of Claudine and Raymart

BUSINESS / B1

Peso hits 45 to $1, 7-year high; with peso up, gov't saves P20B in 1st half

WORLD / A23

Global leaders, soccer legends mark Mandela's 89th birthday

METRO / A21

Water level in Angat Dam drops to critical level

Aragoncillo gets 10 years in prison; Erap says too harsh

LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO was sentenced on Wednesday to 10 years in prison for stealing and passing on secret US documents to a bid to topple the former administration even cracked Price Joseph Estrada, a recipient of Aragoncillo's pilferage, called the sentence "harsh."

Aragoncillo apologized for his actions, saying he only wanted to help bring the Filipino people out of poverty.

"I never intended to cause harm or injury to the United States," said Aragoncillo, a naturalized US citizen who was born in the Philippines.

US District Judge William H. Walls said the prosecution agreed Aragoncillo

A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, July 20, 2007 | 44 | 18 sections | Vol. 31 / No. 223 | P18 | website: www.inquirer.net

Erap sued for plunder by 'Rajah Soliman heir'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

Rich Pinoys lose millions in new financial scandal

By Dianni L. Lucas

ANOTHER FINANCIAL SCANDAL has hit Filipino investors after online investing schemes like Pesoinvests, which promised high returns, folded up when authorities exposed them.

The cases like victims appear to be the well heeled.

As much as $200 million in investors' funds may have been lost after the owner of a foreign exchange trading outfit disappeared, leaving the company's bank accounts bare and abroad nearly empty.

Because of this, an official of the trading firm called Performance Investment Products Corp. (PIPC) yesterday asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to help find the company's Singaporean owner who is suspected of

A4

Army chief: Jonas is NPA

Resistance growing vs Atienza as DENR chief

By TJ Burgonio

A BILLS FOREST OF DEFENDERS SAMMIT President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to name former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza environment secretary in place of Angelo Reyes.

"It was the unfinished out of all," Dolorie Alcantara of Mother Earth, who had closely worked with Reyes on a number of green projects, said yesterday in a phone interview.

Alcantara said the move was "untimely" because it would hamper efforts to ensure a smooth transition after a group of personalities pledged on Wednesday to adopt 20 million seedlings for plant-

RESISTANCE/A-9

Miriam: Reyes a bric-a-brac; I'll stop him

By Cliff C. Cabucungan Jr.

SENATE PRESIDENT MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO said Cabinet posts to six years faced a major setback yesterday with Sen. Ritmon Defensor-Santiago declaring she would block the former general's appointment as the Department of Energy

Calling Reyes a "sentimental bric-a-brac," a "cabinet surplus" with "zero knowledge of energy matters, Santiago said she would use her vote power in the Commission on Appointments (CA) to stop the replacement of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, a former law student of the retired

"I respectfully submit to President Ar-

MIRIAM/A-9

Opposition show of unity highlights rift

By Dona Pazzibugan

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DEMONstration of solidarity yesterday only served to highlight the rift among opposition senators.

Sen. Francis Escudero used the occasion to vent his spleen at fellow opposition senators.

Escudero said he had been unfairly criticized for serving his lunch on the opposition bloc to support fellow Genuine Opposition candidate Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., who has allied himself with administration senators to keep

OPPOSITION/A-10

NATURE'S FIRE: These kids are not worried about the looming water shortage in Metro Manila. They can just dive right in and bathe, and have a lot of fun besides, at one of several fountains around the metropolis, this one at San Lorenzo Ruiz Park in Binondo, Manila. The public is well advised to conserve water as the water level at Angat Dam is at a critical level. *(Story in Metro, Page A2)* / A-1

That gives AFP motive to get him, says mother

By Christine O. Avendaño

MISSING ACTIVIST JONAS Burgos is a member of a unit of the communist New People's Army based in Bulacan, Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino claimed yesterday.

According to Tolentino, that was the finding of the background check conducted by the Army on the 27-year-old agricultural worker, who disappeared after being forcibly taken by an armed group from a Quezon City mall on April 28.

But when reporters asked him the significance of the finding, Tolentino could not categorically say

"Kasi parang mandatory ang kahap inyong, mandatory ang ating background investigation," Tolentino said of his second use of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos.

He said the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were also conducting its own investigation of Jonas.

Edita Burgos, Jonas' mother, told the News that the Army's finding only bolstered her conviction that the military was behind her son's disappearance. "That gives the Army motive to get him. That's a clear motive."

Burgos also said Tolentino's announcement was "irrelevant." She said even ordinary criminals had to be

ARMY CHIEF/A-9

One for the books: Boy lost life saving 4 kids in Pagoda tragedy

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

BOCAUE, BULACAN—THE 13-year-old boy who died while saving four children from drowning after a pagoda sank during the ritual floodwater here on July 8, 1993, has been hailed as a standout hero in a newly published school textbook.

Sajid Bulig, an elementary school student, is remembered by his bravery and heroism when he saved the children during the first to Metro Sout, in what came to be known as the "Pagoda Tragedy," according to the book "Ang Galing Pilipino sa Kagkakaiba-iba (Filipino's Diversity)" written by Ma Rose Salmon and Lucelle Ilmo Felipe.

According to the book, which is written in Filipino, "A pagoda sound forming more passengers

ONE FOR THE BOOKS/A-9

ROLE MODEL: This statue along the Bocaue River honors Sajid Bulig who drowned 14 years ago after saving 4 children from a sinking pagoda during the "Pharez" religious river fest. Eduardo Medas, 13, looks up at his uncle.

Joke only? GMA seeking House seat in 2010

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—JOSE DOS Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo scored

While President Macapagal-Arroyo didn't seem serious about running for Congress, her mere mention of the possibility as she asked for updates on projects here drew sharp reactions from her critics.

Mr. Arroyo, who's hardly known for kidding around, cracked the "joke" when she cited the upcoming P6 billion Mt. Pinatubo Lahar Hazard Mitigation Project (PHLMP) in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga and Zambales town, all in her home province of Pampanga.

The "joke" has been repeated in various ways. As a Boston re-signal her 2010 intentions, are push for Cha-cha, or simply as a joke. "A bad one," said a critic who didn't want to be named for fear Mr. Arroyo may get sore.

Pagtic after she asked Public Works

JOKE ONLY?/A-9

Second FRONTPAGE
E-mail: [illegible] Website: [illegible]

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
16 22 | 2 6 7 5 9 1
Mini-Lotto 6/42 Tuesday, Thursday
8 4 3 | 6 7 2
SUPERLOTTO 6/49
3 9 14 26 35 45
P12,190,773.60

WEATHER FORECAST
Partly cloudy to cloudy with occasional rains and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Dumaguete	Partly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Surigao	Partly Cloudy
Naga	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy		

Complete weather report: [illegible]

Speaker-less House feared

Solon says row may delay election of chamber's leader before Sona

By Norman Bordadora

THE OUTGOING HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER has raised the prospect that the lower chamber may not be able to elect a speaker on Monday before the President's scheduled state-of-the-nation address in the afternoon.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, the majority floor leader in the 13th Congress, told reporters that no expected heated debate among members of the administration coalition could eat up too much time and fail to immediately produce a speaker on the House's first day of session.

He suggested that it would be best for the coalition to elect the speaker in caucus before the floor session and then elect him from the floor on second thoughts later on that day.

"Before it was easy because the speakership was settled early. I should know this issue...because the speakership this year is hotly contested, kahahaban ito siempo (you need help being motivated)," Nograles said at the weekly Bombo Radyo news forum in Quezon City.

"I am not saying that the senatorial race has any relevance on speakership. But that's unfortunately the way it will happen. Let's see how things develop. It is still four days before the opening of Congress. We (in the administration coalition) might still reach a consensus before that time," he added.

First among equals

But hours later, Nograles said he was still responsible for legislation. "I did not dare that 'first among equals' before the customary time for inviting the President to the House.

"That's close to impossible not to be able to elect a speaker before noon of the 23rd," Nograles said.

Nograles, the second-term economist will be to have a designated congressman to act as the presiding officer. But that's unthinkable," added Nograles, a lawyer.

Nograles is a member of Lakas and is supporting Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia's bid for a fifth term as speaker.

Secret vote

Before the House members choose between Speaker Jose de Venecia of Lakas and Leyte Rep. Pablo Garcia of the Nacionalista ng Malayang Pilipino, for their leader, they are expected to debate extensively on how the voting will be done—whether in viva voce, that is, in accordance with existing House rules, or by a secret vote.

The Garcia camp has said that it will insist on secret balloting and will move for a division of the House for its adoption as it will allow an expected heated debate. It believes a secret vote is necessary for a truly independent exercise of those congressmen.

Garcia's secret vote proposal has the support of some administration and opposition lawmakers. The secret balloting also has the support of a number of Lakas members.

Aside from the secret vote issue, another proposed amendment that might take some time to iron out is the one which seeks to allow members of the opposition to vote among themselves for minority floor leader.

Fireworks

House rules state that the second placer in the speakership race will be the minority leader. With only 38 or so members, the opposition in the House virtually has no chance of getting second to allow De Venecia of Lakas-led Genio of Kampi.

There will be fireworks on Monday but I expect the voting to finish by noontime," said Bicol Saranggani Rep. Conlee Pacilda, the minority floor leader in the 13th Congress.

"In the event that we fail to elect a speaker, we can elect an interim speaker. So that there will be no further heated discussions, we propose that the interim speaker come from the ranks of the opposition," Pacilda said.

Both the contenders for the post of speaker come from the administration coalition.

Friends in House

"In the US, what they do is that they assign the oldest member of the House to become the interim speaker. I don't think that will do here...because the oldest man possesses a threat," Pacilda said.

Garcia is 83 years old.

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles, who signed de Venecia's speakership bid, said the issue behind the secret vote is to ensure that a House member can run for vote without fear of retaliation by anybody.

"Speaker De Venecia has many friends in the House. Even Gloria (the Speaker's wife) has many friends among the congressional spouses. But that is not the issue here. It is the leadership of the House that is at stake and the need for reforms," Cerilles said. "Why are they afraid of a secret balloting?"

De Venecia was earlier reported to have said he was amenable to a secret vote, but later took back the statement. He said Lakas was opposed to a secret vote.

"A secret vote will be favorable to the opposition because one-fifth (20) congressmen who voted for the second placer who will constitute the minority," Pacilda said. "In this case, the only ones who will constitute the minority will be the ones who wish to be part of the minority," Pacilda said.

Party-list solons back JDV

A SURGE OF SUPPORT FROM NEW party-list congressmen for Congressman Faustino Junior Dy of Isabela (Speaker Jose de Venecia's bid for a record fifth term as Speaker in Metro Manila lawmakers unanimously rejected the secret ballot method in choosing the speaker of the 14th Congress.

Eleven moderate party-list congressmen representing eight political organizations immediately endorsed De Venecia's bid yesterday after they took their oaths before the Speaker, putting further distance between De Venecia and his rival, Rep. Pablo Garcia.

Rep. Rene Velarde, representing Buhay, the biggest party-list organization with three seats, led the moderate party-list members in endorsing De Venecia. The lawmakers joined De Venecia for his "coalition-building skills" and his advocacy of "political discussion."

Veterans AFPC party-list Rep. Ernesto Pablo said there was a "groundswell of support for Speaker De Venecia from the middle forces and the moderates in the House—much of the speakership race."

Three other moderate party-list representatives are set to endorse De Venecia. That would raise to 14—and a majority of the 24 incoming party-list representatives—the number of party-list members supporting De Venecia.

"The moderates—and representatives of liberal and constitutional and reform-liberal democracy are for me—and I thank them for their unshakable support. They comprise the solution pool, [a] coalition which supports our policy [to build alliances and] consensus," De Venecia said.

Aside from Velarde and Pablo, those who took their oath and pledged support for De Venecia, are Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza, Bayan Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Liza Maza, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, Cibac Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, Ang Galing Pinoy Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Ang Kasangga Rep. Romeo Momo, Bantay Rep. Eduardo Gullas and Ako Bicol Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr.

Velarde said Beltran, Atienza, Rosales, Villanueva, Limkaichong, Momo, Gullas and Garbin would be endorsing De Venecia's bid for the speakership next week.

Beltran, Atienza, Rosales, Villanueva, Limkaichong, Momo, Gullas and Garbin would be endorsing De Venecia's bid for the speakership next week.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo in talks [illegible] with Secretaries Ronaldo Puno and Leandro Mendoza (left).

Bishop reminds GMA of past Sona promises

By Nikko Dizon

EVEN AS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO prepares to deliver her seventh State-of-the-Nation Address before the joint session of the Congress on Monday, a Church official sought to remind her that she allegedly still has to fulfill the promises that she made in her very first Sona 16 years ago when she delivered her controversial "kaya ng powers" speech.

"All that remain to be done is to implement what we promised on her first Sona, just to fulfill what we have said before, starting with the working group, implement those and that will be substantial," said Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chairman of the media office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

In that first Sona in 2001, the President invited to her special guests three boys from the Payatas dumpsite who had nothing there with to go for a better life on paper hours which then ordered to create the Payatas Task Force in the direction of Malacañang. The President had supposedly read about the children.

Malacañang later released a statement saying the "kaya ng powers" boys were had a fighting chance for a better life as the government had given their parents and guardians P15,000 in assistance so they could start livelihood projects.

"I am hoping that all the programs promised would be fulfilled, in housing alone and poverty alleviation, nothing has happened. There are programs that the government was able to start but have not fully implemented," claimed Quitorio, who said he was not speaking for the Catholic bishops.

Quitorio said the bishops have yet to issue a statement on the Sona but assured that there was "working between the lines" of the CBCP's statements since last year, he could guess at the bishops' sentiments."

"Since last year, the bishops have called for a closure to the electoral fraud issue of 2004 and to search for the truth. In housing, the bishops issued a statement on housing and condemned. Now, they stated their concerns about the Human Security Act amid the backdrop of a militarized Cabinet which is costly," said Quitorio in Filipino.

He said the CBCP view is that Human Security Act, "the antiterror law, should not yet be implemented until it is thoroughly embalmed and certain provisions can be fixed.

He added that while the CBCP would not join the petition before the Supreme Court that was filed by 28 groups against the HSA, the bishops "moral support" can be counted on.

Militants set QC protest

MILITANT GROUPS ARE SET TO MOUNT street actions in Quezon City to protest against the new antiterror law and political killings, while Brandon Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress on Monday.

An estimated 15,000 to 25,000 protesters from key militant groups—Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)—and their allied organizations will be joining the day-long protest action, said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

"We're appealing to the authorities not to use force to break up the peaceful rally," he said.

The protests will highlight the dangers of the Human Security Act of 2007, the new antiterror law which took effect last Sunday, the unsolved killing of activists and militants and poverty organizers said.

Reyes de Jesus, the Gabriela secretary general, said they expect Ms. Arroyo to [illegible] on the issues of poverty, growth and the creation of 1.2 million jobs from January to April in her Sona.

"The truth is not much of these jobs are in the categories of unpaid family labor, underemployed, jobs predominated by women," she said.

The militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalayang ng Pilipinas challenged the President to address the issue of the killings, electoral fraud, the antiterror law, corruption in government, poverty, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, high unemployment rate, agrarian reform, rule of government-owned corporations and climate change in her Sona. — TJ Burgonio

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South Korea embassy lifts ban on visa issuances

By Tarra Quismundo

SOUTH KOREA YESTERDAY RESUMED processing visa applications from Filipino overseas workers in Philippine immigration officials vowed to take action on complaints of extortion from Koreans here, assuaging grievances that had prompted the Embassy to suspend visa issuances on Friday.

Following a "convincing" meeting with officials of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on Wednesday afternoon, South Korean Consul General Hong Sung-ting lifted the suspension, counting on BI's promise to act on reports that several Koreans have fallen victim to extortion upon entering the country.

"I lifted the suspension after talking with [BI] officials over lunch. They came up with a very good plan that will relieve the concerns of Koreans expanding extortion," said Hong in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

He declined to disclose BI's plan to address the extortion problem but said he was convinced that immigration officials would do something about it, according Wednesday's meeting as "serious."

"I was given the assurance that they will do something about it that's why we resumed [issuing visas] and I am expecting that measures will be taken... It was my sound judgment that they will come up with solutions," said Hong.

With the human's promise, he said, the Embassy was able to defuse panic among the Korean community in the country, currently numbering 30,000.

Appealing for understanding from Filipinos, Hong said the measure was the best he could take as the Korean manipulation effort would have had its way and affected Filipino illegals in South Korea had he not enforced the brief suspension of visa issuances here.

"I got information that the Korean immigration officer was already paying attention to complaints in this country and I learned that Korea may take serious against Filipinos illegally entering there. You see, I had to avoid that calamities," he said.

There are an estimated 50,000 Filipino workers in Korea, of whom 15,000 are undocumented. Hong had said in an earlier interview.

In deciding to take the "drastic measure" of suspending visa issuances, Hong said he was "misled" by a very serious alarm signal" to the Philippine government to address the problem of the Korean community.

Had he not done so, "the situation from this government would have taken a longer time," he said.

Hong had earlier apologized to the Department of Foreign Affairs for enforcing the suspension without first informing the DFA and said that the foreign office viewed as a breach of diplomatic protocol.

Experts say antiterror law worse than '1984'

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By Kristine L. Alave

IT'S 2007 BUT IT FEELS LIKE 1984.

Law experts yesterday said that the Human Security Act (HSA) is reminiscent of the totalitarian and anticonstitutional provisions, saying the law would make life in the country feel like George Orwell's dystopian novel, "1984."

Oreo Pacifico Agabin, a constitutional law expert and former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, said the HSA imposed unprecedented restrictions, which he described as "voyages of the Orwellian Big Brother," that violate the Constitution.

The HSA took effect on Sunday. Instead individuals and nongovernment organizations have petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify it, saying it is unconstitutional.

George Orwell wrote the novel "1984" in 1949. It tells of the life of Winston Smith in a totalitarian world controlled by an entity called Big Brother, who uses the system and technological advances to control his countrymen and silence dissent.

Right to privacy

In a forum hosted by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Agabin, a former IBP official, said the HSA breaches an individual's right to privacy as it authorizes searches, seizures, and electronic and other forms of surveillance of suspected terrorists.

It allows for warrantless arrests and targets individuals who have even the remotest links to suspects, he said.

In Section 3, the HSA recommends a clearer provision on the violations of which could be considered a terrorist act.

Both Agabin and Bello Ingusan, a member of the law group Habeas and a former senator, said they were most concerned about the invasion of privacy under the law.

"This is really [wondering] I can't think of anything awful enough to describe it," Ingusan said. "1984 is today, 2007."

Ingusan said the Anti-Terrorism Council—which is supposed to oversee implementation of the law and is composed of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and other administration officials—functions like Big Brother in its roaring he roared.

"I am very concerned that this council will be the one setting the [antiterror]," he said.

NENE GADUENAC
Youth on rail supporting this antiterror law during yesterday's forum. Watching are Most Colmenares of Bayan Muna and Nilo Divina, Bureau of NGO

Agabin said, "As we know in Orwell's Big Brother, this suspect knows he is under surveillance. There is a sign across the street, 'Big Brother is watching you.' Here there is an notice that the computer is under surveillance."

The law's "guilty by association" principle would also be prone to abuse, Ingusan said. Even the driver for an organization opposed to the government could be suspected for up to 40 years, he added.

Ingusan said the law could create result in more forced disappearances.

Under the HSA, those who are wrongfully detained would be compensated P500,000 for each day they spent in jail.

"I think this will only compel the constitution to send the detainee to the 'preferred hotel,' 5C-star (as of late) to pay this. This is a provision made by people whose fate were planned in Malacañang," he said.

Lawyer Jose Colmenares of the Commission for the Defense of Liberties said the group hoped the Supreme Court would strike down the law as unconstitutional.

Colmenares said the group was heartened by Chief Justice Reynato Puno's leadership of a multisectoral summit on July 16-17 that looked into the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances under the Arroyo administration.

"We hope the SC's civil liberties committee would prevail," he said.

Slate is clean for Red, Moro rebels—Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ANTITERROR COUNCIL yesterday assured communist and Moro rebels the "slates were clean" of their past offenses under the Human Security Act prior to the dawning up of a blacklist of terror groups in the country.

Defense Undersecretary Rio Ermita, who presided over the 10th meeting of the council, said the new "prospective," meaning it would take into account only those terrorist acts committed after the law took effect on July 15.

"If they committed terrorist acts before that, it will not be counted. To be labeled a terrorist organization under Section 17, we have to prove to the RTC (regional trial court) that the act was committed after the law took effect," Ermita said.

"This means everyone, including the CPP-NPA, will have a clean slate," he said, referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

Section 17 of the HSA provides that on the Department of Justice's request, any group organized or caused terrorism, new panic and cause the government to give in to an unlawful demand could be declared a terrorist and outlawed organization by a competent RTC.

Ermita also said this would serve as a guide for the Antiterrorism Council as it tackles desire to work on a blacklist of terror groups similar to that of the United States and European Union, both of which include the CPP-NPA and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao.

A member of the Antiterrorism Council, Ermita said he was making the statement to reassure groups in the face of the criticism the HSA had been receiving.

"People are terrified about the HSA because they only see the [antiterror] and police authorities' power rather [than] believe it just 20 percent of the law. What they don't realize is that it has more emphasis on preventive actions such as freezing the assets of terrorist groups and following one another," Ermita said.

He pointed out that under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, it was necessary to have a "predicate crime" before the authorities could look into the financial transactions of suspected terrorist groups. Under the HSA, a predicate crime is not necessary, Ermita said.

While the council would be tasked to study the terrorist people in accomplished organizations, Ermita said this was a step in improvement over the antiterror task force in the past.

"We have only a task force before. So, the government agency went to deal with each group one after another, unlike now when we are a council. The immediate effect is we will have more cooperation from government agencies because there is more partnership. Eventually, their cooperation was enhanced and we had a much more organization to get things going," Ermita said.

Meanwhile, will officially declare the implementation of the HSA, or hopefully the law, on Friday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The Palace set the rules for July 20 in deference to the Supreme Court's expected comment on the extrajudicial killings on July 16-17.

Corrections

IN THE JULY 19 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"Talisman seen [BFSB head]"—misstated the surname of a member of the civic organization Winner Foundation. The member's name is Chit Reyes... not Ferrer.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page misspelled the first name of one of the Marine officers accused of participating in a coup attempt last year. The officer is Col. Antonio—not Amando—Bautista.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an article on Page A2—"Court martial of 28 officers soon: judge"—misstated the surname of another Marine officer implicated in the failed coup plot. The officer is Col. Antonio—not Bautista—Cayanga.

THE SAME ARTICLE misspelled the first name of another accused officer in the failed coup plot. He is Col. Antonio—not Juanito—Cayanga.

Party-list group presses withdrawal of nomination of Miriam's son

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BAGUIO PARTY-list group supposedly abandoned by the son of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is not giving up on its bid to withdraw its nomination as the congressional representative did ultimately expel him from the group.

Frisk Boy Ribo, national president of the alliance for Rural Concerns (ARC), yesterday said the party's barrister were studying the possibility of elevating the case before the Supreme Court or filing a motion at the Commission on Elections.

Ribo said the group had been caught by surprise by Ms. Comelec's decision to reset to Monday, July 30, its earlier "ineligible" nominee Ignacio B. on the same day that its ex-bane nominees on the withdrawal matter was released.

Outsider

The ARC, which recommended an "outsider" in Santiago for the May party-list election, got an award from the Comelec in mid-2 two months since it filed the notice, according to Ribo.

"There are loopholes in the Comelec decision," he said the statement. "The mid-list was selected based on its own interpretation of the rules."

Last July 6, the ARC informed the body that it was withdrawing the nomination of Santiago for allegedly violating the party's constitution and by-laws.

Ribo had said the group was particularly irked by Santiago's decision to go solo during the campaign, ignoring all the party meetings, despite her submitting her own manifesto report before the Comelec.

Expulsion

Besides the notice of withdrawal, congressmen ng ongol hearings from the group was initiated by an announcement, we remember, he said.

Santiago's supporter only into the ARC's fold but to the delegation that it was fronting for Malacañang during the elections. He and have a staunch anti-turned-rabid supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Welcome news

In a previous interview, Ribo said the ARC accommodated the complaint lodged on the latter given to a mother's political clout, the group could push for its bid to remind the Comelec decision against Defensor-Santiago's proposal.

Yesterday, he described as "welcome news" the mother's pronouncement that he would work for the ARC's reinstatement.

"However, we didn't get him to commit to our party's legislative priorities," he said.

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0% 12 mos.

P2,170.66/mo.
0% 12 mos.

GERMANIA

P2,196.17/mo.
0% 6 mos.

P4,175.83/mo.
0% 6 mos.

P1,547.50/mo.
0% 3 mos.

Whirlpool

P4,496.67/mo.
0% 6 mos.

P13,333.50/mos.
0% 6 mos.

GREE

P7,295.00

P6,396.67/mos.
0% 3 mos.

P4,495.80/mos.
0% 3 mos.

Asahi

P1,439.00

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FRIDAY
JULY 20, 2007

WHITE RABBIT candy brand from China being pulled out of the shelf in a Manila store.

FORMALIN IN WHITE RABBIT

Chinese candy maker protects ban from RP

SHANGHAI—THE MAKER OF A POPULAR Chinese sweet banned by the Philippines' Bureau of Food and Drugs has rejected reports that it contains formaldehyde, a toxic chemical used to embalm corpses.

The company behind White Rabbit Creamy Candy said independent tests it commissioned after reports of the ban first emerged showed no formaldehyde content.

"Our products have passed tests which are standard and they are completely qualified," Guan Sheng Yuan Group Co general manager Wen Hao told reporters.

"We are taken aback by the Philippine test results and regret that they have not replied to our request to have the test reports sent to us," he said, adding that China's own quality watchdog was still checking the sweets.

The Philippine government confirmed on Wednesday it had banned the import of White Rabbit Candy and three other Chinese sweets brands after tests showed they contained formaldehyde.

Health experts say the packaged use of formaldehyde may lead to cancer, especially lung cancer. The chemical, popularly known as formalin, is a disinfectant and preservative and often used in embalming.

The BFAD warned the public against buying and consuming White Rabbit and other imported Chinese food products, which, it said, contained formaldehyde, a carcinogenic preservative.

Importers, distributors as well as supermarkets, grocery and stalls have been given 15 to 30 days to sell their remaining products, or face sanctions under the Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics Act and other trade laws.

Aside from White Rabbit, the other banned products were: the milk candy produced by the Fujian Inanli Aromatic Food Industry Co., with no licensed distributor; Baitong Gyap Jaocandy, made by Guangzhou Baitong Foodstuff Co. Ltd. in Panyu City Guangdong and distributed by Guodong International Trading Corp.; and Yong Xiang Shuda grape biscuits, manufactured by Dongguan Baoghong Food Co. Ltd., also in Dongguan, with a licensed distributor.

The agency came out with the advisory after more than two weeks of inspecting more than 600 food products from China.

Locally made candies safe

The BFAD clarified, however, that locally made White Rabbit candies were safe for human consumption and urged the public to closely inspect the packaging. It said only the China-manufactured candies, which have foreign markings on the packaging, were found to have been contaminated with formaldehyde.

Also yesterday, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales announced the creation of a task force to prevent the entry of the China food products banned by the BFAD.

He said the task force would coordinate closely with the BFAD to strictly enforce the prohibition.

Wen said his company welcomed the right to use the BFAD and a Philippine television to test the dried sweet of the brand, which left 10 containers found of the sweets stranded.

International concern over China's food safety problems ballooned in the past after high levels of toxins and industrial chemicals were found in Chinese exports.

Industrial oils, acid, cancer-causing chemicals and other dangerous ingredients have been found in thousands of food items in China such as baby milk powder, rice and flour.

Series of seizures

China has acknowledged the problems and vowed to take action, but has also announced a series of seizures of United States inspection safety grounds in moves seen as retaliatory.

It closed down 180 food factories after inspectors found industrial chemicals being used in products from candy to seafood.

The clamp-down came amid a nationwide crackdown on shoddy and dangerous products launched in December that also uncovered cases of recycled or expired food, according to news reports.

China last week executed the former head of its food and drug safety watchdog for corruption, in a decision widely interpreted as an attempt by the government to show it takes the problem seriously.

Chinese officials have repeatedly blamed foreign media for hyping up reports of dangerous goods coming out of the country's chaotic and corrupt food and drug industry. AFP and Jerome Aning and Inquirer's Joel Salo

WEN HAO, the general manager of the Guan Sheng Yuan Group that produces White Rabbit candy, eats one of the sweets to show it's not poisonous.

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Centenarian among 1st to get high-tech RP passports

By Terra Quimpundo

TODAY, 102-YEAR-OLD SIMEONA ADAMOS of Ilocos Norte will be one of the first Filipinos to receive a maroon-colored passport, a machine-readable travel booklet that the foreign office started issuing this week to catch up with the rest of the world.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is releasing today the first batch of maroon-colored passports to senior citizens who were the first to apply for the upgraded document when the DFA initially offered them to the elderly migrant workers and their dependents last Wednesday.

Among the first batch of recipients will be Adamos, whose application was submitted by a relative on July 13.

Through its supplier, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the DFA opened applications for the maroon passports with an initial stock of more than 1,000 booklets, each of whose pages boast advanced security features to ensure that they are tamper-proof.

Biometrics

The issuance of the machine-readable passport (MRP), a booklet that uses biometrics on the laminated data page and embedded security images details only by-direction light, is an interim measure that the DFA has adopted "in the face of delays in the implementation of its electronic passport project."

Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Henrique Limotanto Jr. said the consular office hoped to issue by the second quarter of 2008 the more advanced chip-embedded passports, which in the current gold-standard are travel documents.

"Whenever Filipinos enter international ports of entries, immigration officials there have to manually encode their passports instead of just having the computer read it," Limotanto said.

The country has to catch up fast as the Philippines remains among the three percent of countries still not using machine-readable passports, he said, from one that is already late MRPs, he said.

Easy to forgery

"I think this will be helpful because there are many [scammers] who issue fake passports," said Esperanza Orillano, 66, a retired teacher who lined up to renew her passport yesterday at the DFA main office in Pasay City.

Orillano, also of Ilocos Norte, whose old green passport expired in May 2006, only learned yesterday that new passports were being made available to the elderly.

Though seniors are given a choice between getting the new maroon-colored or the old-style green passport, Orillano said she might as well apply for the upgraded version.

"If I get the old one, immigration officers might wonder why and might not allow me to leave the country," Orillano said in Filipino.

Felipe Dimaso Sr., 79, traveled all the way from Camarines Norte to renew his passport. A former migrant worker, who made his first and only trip out of the country in 1992, traveled to have his travel documents renewed as his New Zealand-based son had invited him for a visit.

DFA's mandate

Limotanto said the DFA would soon announce the date when the general public can start applying for maroon passports which, like the old one, costs P600. Officials whose passports still have some years to go before they expire will still be recognized, he said.

"There are legal obstacles for us to proceed with the implementation of the machine-readable passport project. It is our mandate and responsibility to issue Philippine passports," he said.

The DFA started issuing MRPs to government officials on June 18, some three months after the Supreme Court lifted a restraining order that a Pasig court had issued in response to an injunction plea from SGV International Corp., the e-passport project's original contractor, to stop the DFA from pursuing the project without it.

The firm was dropped from the project in December 2005 after "it failed to deliver on time," said Limotanto.

The DFA entered among MRPs with the help of the French-based Ingenico Industries, which donated computers, printers and the software.

BULLET PROOF

WATER PROOF

Shell Flintkote

Mortar puzzle draws ₱64-M answer

ANTITERROR TROOPS in counterterrorism drill

Cops gird for Asean meeting

Corporal faces trial for sergeant's death

By Christine O. Avendaño

FORT MAGSAYSAY, NUEVA ECIJA—An active soldier and a retired soldier were charged yesterday in connection with the killing of Cpl. Edgar Catubig, who was shot dead by his superior, Sgt. Noel Bautista, in Marawi City on July 10.

Bautista, who is detained at the Army's 7th Infantry Division stockade in Fort Magsaysay, was charged with murder, while Pfc. Jaime Ramos, who is on leave, was charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Both cases were filed before the Regional Trial Court in Cabanatuan City.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said yesterday that he had ordered the trial, adding that Cpl. Edgar Cabas would be charged for the death of Staff Sgt. Noel Bautista after he accidentally shot the latter with a fire bullet.

He said the charge to be brought against Cabas before a military court-martial was murder, as charge of homicide through reckless imprudence is civilian courts.

But before Cabas's case was brought to the military court, he said he ordered that a pre-trial investigation by military lawyers first be conducted.

The Army chief said he instructed the investigation of the circumstances of the Army Inspector General (Sgt. Gs. handle charged in accordance with

"Because this is a crime between soldiers, it should be considered as court martial," he told reporters.

Tolentino added that he gave the order four days ago.

He also said that he had ordered that five other Army personnel who participated in the brawl in which Catubig was killed be investigated.

Valentino pinned Bautista, who was involved for being responsible for killing not also Sgt. Noel Bautista, Soldiers' only this year, saying, "He is a big loss to the organization."

Christine Avendaño

Memorial Mass for Butch Marcelo

A MEMORIAL MASS FOR Andrew "Butch" Marcelo will be held tomorrow, Saturday, 5 p.m., at the chapel of the 51st Engineering Brigade headquarters in Camp Rafelito Antolan, Libis, Quezon City.

Marcelo, of Los Angeles and Manhasset City, died of cancer on July 13, in Glendale, California. He was 56.

His body was cremated on Thursday.

Marcelo was one of the 57 young men who founded the Lyceo Pi Sigma Fraternity at the University of the Philippines in 1969.

Zones in Metro Manila are invited to attend the memorial service and fellowship on remembrance of the late Lyceo 2—Marcelo's batch number—is to be hosted by Maj. Gen. Cyrano "Nani" Austria. Dinner will be served at the clubhouse after the Mass.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 20, 2007
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 11:10-12:14
Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8

It happened that Jesus walked through the wheat fields on a Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and began to pick some heads of wheat and wash them in on the grain. When the Pharisees noticed this, they said to Jesus, "Look at your disciples; they are doing what is prohibited on the Sabbath!"

Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the bread offered to God, although neither he nor his men had the right to eat it, but only the priests. And have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the Temple break the Sabbath rule, yet they are not guilty?

"I tell you, there is greater than the Temple here. If you really knew the meaning of the words: It is mercy I want, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent.

"Besides the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Commentary

Egypt does not want us to let the slaves go. Moses and Aaron must tell people the ritual of Passover, with each family or group sharing a lamb and taking its blood to smear their doorposts with the blood. In night, they are to stand and eat the lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, because they are to leave in haste. At the stroke of death, passover them, striking every first born of Egypt. And lately, Pharaoh will let them go. This is the memorial of Passover—the central liturgy of the Jewish people—the promise of holiness of life to remember, relive' own life, death, and resurrection. It begs to "celebrate" Passover ritual and expect more for all peoples through Christ—Supreme and Eucharist.

Jesus has this mystery of the Passover and the Sabbath deeply and lives for the freedom and liberation of all peoples. David took the bread from the sanctuary to feed his men and Jesus will take his life and his body to feed his hungry people. When God seems, and does not respond, is Freedom for all, mercy for all, and life for all. Does words spoke him of labor call for a part of what acts to mention Jesus' own Passover and our being saved from death, sin, and misery.

Clarence Hallenbeck et al. A Report to All 10th Mega Alliance Director Gen. Ltd. etc. Mga. 4 Mga. Ltd. Mga. Ltd. Mga. Ltd.

IZA CALZADO: Perfect in the original

Iza Calzado hopes to blaze Hollywood trail for Pinoys

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL OPEN DOORS for other Filipina actors," said actress Iza Calzado, who bagged a role in "The Echo," the English-language remake of Filipino director Yam Laranas' horror film "Sigaw."

Calzado will be sharing the screen with Hollywood actor Jean Bradford, who was last seen in Clint Eastwood's World War II epic "Flags of Our Fathers."

In "The Echo," Bradford will portray an environmental artist who unwittingly unleashes the restless souls in a house in Colorado.

"I'll tell the people in Hollywood that there are many other Filipino actors who are more beautiful and more gifted than I am," Calzado told the Inquirer. "I am nothing compared to the veteran actors that I work with on [the GMA-7 soap opera] 'Inspirasyon,' for example. I have so much to learn from."

Although she would be reprising a role that won her an Urian Best Supporting Actress award in 2005, Calzado still had to audition for the part and, in the final round, went up against three foreign actresses.

"We were my audition piece through the internet over a month ago," she recalled. "Yam's supervisor, Chuck Gutierrez, directed my scenes over. I just read lines of dialogue from the script."

Calzado's boyfriend, band manager Joey Garcia, helped her "coordinate with the Hollywood producers. He's my representative there and he's doing it for free," she said, laughing.

Perfect in original

Apparently, the producers liked what they saw.

Rubeo Hospitalo, Inquirer Hollywood correspondent, quoted Laranas as saying that producer Roy Lee agreed with his choice of Calzado. Lee reportedly said, "She was perfect in the original. Why shouldn't we get her for the remake?"

Apart from her exotic beauty, "she's very professional. She's a natural actress, very instinctive. You don't see acting in her—she becomes the character. She can compete in the movies," Laranas said.

Before flying to Los Angeles three months ago, Laranas told the Inquirer that Calzado "did not even like our Hardee's Chic."

Calzado, however, is not too versed on her heritage.

"I was worried about my accent. I'm more comfortable speaking Filipino. My friends kept telling me that I should practice speaking English, with an American twang," the 24-year-old actress said.

With a month to go before the start of shooting in Toronto, Canada, Calzado is preparing herself for the challenge.

New York setting

"Actually, I'm going to ask Yam about my character's background," she said. "The remake is set in New York. In the original my character was more of a tomboy. In that movie, my characters doesn't need to learn a New York accent."

She's considering hiring a dialect coach, though.

"I want to be prepared when I go to Toronto," she said. "We are times. I want to call [award-winning filmmaker] Peque Gallaga and enroll in his acting workshop."

She worked with Gallaga in the 2005 film "Pwera Biyuda" and took an acting workshop under him in preparation for last year's "Inay-nay."

She is set to leave mid-August and will stay in Toronto for three weeks.

"Three and a half weeks, maximum," she said. "I am so thankful to GMA 7 because the network has allowed me to do 'The Echo.'"

Has what it takes

Eli Soriano, talented vice president and head of GMA Artist Center, said the business the network was "supporting the 100 percent."

"I've always desired bigger venues for our artists. I know Iza has what it takes to garner national and she will be watched by discuperentes. This is a welcome opportunity," Soriano said.

Julius Magdangal, Calzado's cousin in the GMA Films horror flick "Feng," is confident her friend would do well abroad. "I am so happy for her. With her looks and talent, she could give Hollywood actresses a good fight."

Lots of prayers

Iza Calzado, Iza's father, and her daughter prayed the novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus prior to winning the role.

"I also prayed to St. Therese. I think I prayed to all the saints I know," Iza said. "This is really a testament to the power of prayer."

Although she has confirmed that Calzado had the role in the bag, the actress is not taking any chances.

She is still praying to the saints that her birthmark sojourn would pass through without a hitch.

In the earlier interview, she said her biggest worry was not being familiar of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) in the United States.

Actors foreign actors can work in Hollywood productions, they must become members of SAG, she said.

"I think Yam and the producers are working to get her a SAG card," Soriano said.

Cyber cops patrol Internet

By Alcuin Papa

HUMAN TRAFFICKERS, ONLINE child molesters and perpetrators of child pornography beware!

The Philippine National Police (PNP) now has cyber cops roaming the Internet for websites that traffic Filipino women and children and abuse children online.

According to Director Gerry Bañas, chief of the PNP's Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, a proposal is set up a dedicated Women and Children's Crimes Division (WCCD) to Camp Crame has been approved by the National Police Commission.

The new unit, which will be operational by end-August, will focus on child pornography and the trafficking of females, as well of the such.

Yesterday, around 100 police officers and government prosecutors finished a four-day course for law enforcers on how to address the trafficking of children and women on the Internet.

The seminar, held at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), featured speakers from international groups like the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC). Also present, the United States Embassy and Microsoft Phil.

"The criminal is an eye-opener for law enforcement on the existence of child pornography and human trafficking. We are committed to control all crimes, in the virtual world or otherwise," Bañas said.

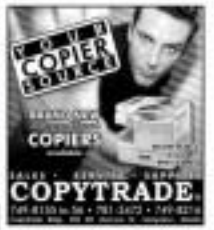
He said it gave the PNP the opportunity to network with foreign counterparts and to strengthen coordination with international law enforcement agencies in the fight against transnational crimes.

Chief Supt. Yolanda Tarugan, chief of the ARMS women and children's crimes division, said the new cyber cops would be using "sting" and surveillance operations against child molesters.

"We will have agents posing as children online to chat with sex hunters. We can set up a meeting and nab them," she said.

She said the law enforcers learned during the course that certain online communications can now be used as evidence in cases against perpetrators.

In the case of websites featuring child pornography, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza said the ARMS would use "computer forensics" to track down the operators of the website.



Egyptian jurist defends shariah

ISLAMIC OR SHARIAH LAW, which is now being observed in Muslim Mindanao, is meant "to protect the weak and powerless from the powerful," a visiting senior Egyptian Islamic jurist said yesterday.

Dr. Ahl Omar Sharif, who spoke on shariah as a way of life and law and on Egypt's contribution to the modern interpretation of shariah, said shariah should continue to coexist with other laws governing for the protection of human dignity.

Rules knowledge

"We have to look into a future where the world is a single unit ... every country participating in this powerful, connected, communicating world, sharing values as fellow human beings to another ... are should all be flexible as to accommodate other cultures by learning knowledge," Sharif said in his speech at an ongoing lecture series co-hosted by the Supreme Court at the Ateneo de Davao University.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno, in his closing remarks, said a synthesis of the ongoing norms of law and jurisprudence, Islamic or otherwise, must be explored and maximized.

Honorary doctorate

Sharif was conferred an honorary doctorate by the Ateneo de Davao in recognition of his contributions in the fields of human rights, constitutional issues, judicial independence, Islamic law and international law.

Also present were Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Antonio Eduardo Nachura, and officials of the Ateneo de Davao and representatives from the lawyers' associations, the Philippine Judicial Academy and Philippine Association of Law Schools.

Arnaine Amog

AFTER THE KILL: The Army test-fires a batch of mortar rounds (at top and bottom right) inside Basilan in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. (Inset) Capt. Harold Cabreros conspires the dry-propellant charge of a mortar round (on his right) to the wet-propellant charge used by the Marines in Basilan. This has led to a recommendation on weather-proof the ammo's canisters. (At right) A soldier checks a mortar round that failed to explode. (See story on Page A8.)

Army chief: Jonas is NPA, had code name

From page A1

brought before the courts to face trial.

"That is the democratic way of life. Regardless of one's ideological belief, whether he is rich or poor, he has a right to be free," Bacarro said.

'Code name'

Speaking with reporters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, where he attended the turn-filing of a batch of mortar rounds used in Basilan last week where 14 Marines were killed, Tolentino said the Army had learned that Jonas was a member of the 70th Front Committee 2 based in Bulacan.

Tolentino said Jonas even had a "code name" but that he could not recall it at the moment.

He declined to say more, claiming that the Army would be accused of bias if he did so. He said it would be "better" if the other investigative agencies with which the Army was coordinating disclosed the details.

Tolentino had ordered an Army inquiry into Jonas' background after the Commission on Human Rights suggested that doing so might quench cries for his disappearance.

The military became a prime suspect in Jonas' disappearance after the plate number of the abductors' supposed getaway vehicle was traced to an impounded vehicle parked in the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion camp in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Army officials claimed that the license plates of the impounded vehicle had been stolen, apparently when the battalion was scrutinizing entrants the camp from November 2006 to March 2007.

The battalion commanders have since been admonished by the military leadership for negligence.

Tolentino himself was recently linked to Jonas' disappearance. According to an informant of the Department of Justice, the Army chief's staff car, a Toyota Altis, was one of the two backup vehicles used by the abductors.

But Tolentino denied that the car had been used for such a purpose. He said the

TOLENTINO

BURGOS

car was used by his wife's cousin official Estal Jones.

He dismissed the informant's claim as "misdirection."

Public school teachers, principals, supervisors and other school officials belonging to the Kapisanan ng mga Guro ng Bayan (Kagumi) said they were joining Edita Burgos, herself a former public school teacher, in asking the government to "leave no stone unturned" to find her son.

"We empathize with the members of the Burgos family in the situation they are in. We pray and hope that [Jonas] is still alive," Kagumi secretary general Erwin O. Jan Diego said in a statement issued after the group's latest quarterly meeting held in Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City.

Jan Diego said Kagumi would "help in whatever way, however humble and insignificant," in tracing Jonas' whereabouts.

"We come from different parts of the country, and [this hurt] can help," he said.

Kagumi revealed that Ang Pahayagang Malaya, "which was relieved and published by Jun Burgos during the dark years of martial law, [took] out the cudgels for teachers in its opinion section and gave prominence to their mass actions in its news pages."

Opposition show of unity highlights rift

From page A1

the Senate presidency.

So is a truce in the administration bloc would likely remain the Senate majority while the opposition would still be relegated to being the minority. The majority usually gets the chairmanships of the major committees.

Administration senators Aloggay Estrada and Alan Peter Cayetano, who have also sided with Villar, aired their sentiments, albeit in a more restrained manner, before the gathering.

Opposition stalwarts gathered at 2:30 p.m. at Senator Juan Ponce Enrile's house, but their first meeting since the May 14 elections.

Spearheaded by Biazon

The event was spearheaded by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, chair of the United Opposition party and nominee of the former Opposition coalition.

Opposition leader led by deposed President Joseph Estrada, party representatives and all the senators who attended gave "solidarity messages."

In a speech exchanged from his down, Estrada emphasized the need to keep the opposition united.

The elder Estrada was publicly acknowledged for his role in the campaign of the GO senatorial slate which included personalities that played key roles in his impeachment and ouster six years ago.

"What we achieved during the last elections, we owe to the Filipino people who voted for us for a common purpose to be the watchdog of this oppressive administration," Estrada said.

"So for our nation's sake, we must remain united so we can continue to work to uplift the Filipino masses," he added.

Binay, for his part, proposed a caucus of

celebrations, claiming the election was a "victory for us in the Genuine Opposition." But he also acknowledged that the opposition members in the House of Representatives and its local government positions had declined.

"The message here is to show that the opposition is firm despite all the causes. We have a good attendance. The leaders are here. They're all here," Binay said to reporters later.

Escudero for Villar

When it was his turn to speak, Escudero portrayed himself as the offended party even as he justified joining Villar. He said he had not changed his position on issues bounding the Arroyo administration.

"For two weeks, we chose to remain silent despite the accusation that we joined the other side. We chose to be silent upon the request of President Estrada to maintain unity in the opposition," he said.

"Who is the real opposition? Those who operate a lot and honor divisiveness or those who control their emotions though they are in front?" he said in jest.

Escudero even dished other opposition senators for thinking this early about the 2010 presidential election. "Let us set aside our personal interests!" he said.

He did not step up who he alluded to. "We have been with the opposition for a long time. We will remain with GO," he said.

The partners in the GO coalition are the PDP-Laban, Liberal Party, Aksyon Demokratiko, the Nacionalista Party and the Partido ng Manang Pilipino. It also included militant party-list groups and other anti-Arroyo civic groups.

Cayetano and Estrada kept their questions short.

Quoting Supreme Information Gerard de Quiroz, Cayetano said it was a tragedy that the opposition was divided over the Senate presidency alone.

"I'm touching out to all members of the 13, Let's honor the sacrifice of [former President Estrada]. Let's just say we're all wrong and mind forces. Let's keep the coalition going," he said.

Cayetano, Estrada also for Villar

In interviews on the sidelines, Cayetano and Estrada explained they found nothing wrong in choosing Villar over Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel Jr. because both were with the opposition anyway.

"You can't blame Villar. It was his position. You have to grant it to him," said Estrada.

He denied he has asked for a position but said he would accept the post if there are President pro tempore, the second highest position in the Senate, if his colleagues would vote for him.

"If not from his Villar that does not mean I align myself with the administration. I still remain in the opposition," he said.

Mention opposition

He also had sharp words for fellow opposition senators.

"Many pointed that we are members of the opposition. There's a mention admin, admin, mention opposition," he said, without naming anyone.

The young Estrada noted that some were formed on the 2010 [presidential] election.

Cayetano also said the issue over the Senate presidency was clouded by presidential ambitions. "It's definitely affecting how people are moving," he said.

He underlined he would vote for Villar. "I had a one-on-one with him. He said there will be no hampering of investigations but let's make sure the Senate is not used for partisan politics," he said.

Cayetano said if not for fellow opposition senators who suddenly turned against Villar "let our fault if administration senators voted for Villar?" he said.

Blue ribbon committee

Besides, Cayetano and Estrada said they wanted the major committees to be chaired by opposition senators, particularly by the Blue Ribbon committee.

But only Estrada unequivocally said he would withdraw his support for Villar if the committee went to administration Sen. Joker Arroyo, who has been criticized for not pursuing the investigation of the Jose Pidal issues.

Villar was reportedly still out of the country. Pimentel was also a no-show, along with Senators Sonfilo Lacson, Manuel Roxas II and Loren Legarda, who reportedly supports Pimentel.

Meyway hasn't made choice

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III kept his speech short mainly to thank the opposition leaders for their support in the last elections.

Interviewed on the sidelines, Aquino said he spoke with Escudero and Cayetano on Wednesday night. He said he was "fully confident that in addressing the people's issues they will not be found wanting."

But Aquino said he was still disappointed by the decision of the others to back the administration bloc because he preferred that the opposition bloc be the Senate majority.

"Unfortunately the administration will have equal or even greater say in that coalition," Aquino said. "I can't be in a coalition with administration senators."

He said he had not made a choice between Villar and Pimentel.

"Sir (Villar) never talked to us. We keep hearing he talks to the administration. We find that hard to understand," Aquino said.

Trust

Francisco Nemenzo, a former University of the Philippines president, was among the last to give a message of solidarity.

"I realized the need for making tactical maneuvers ... I don't care about the Senate presidency but I hope the opposition will come up with a common stand instead of making private deals with the administration," Nemenzo said.

"It's not just that you ask us to trust you. You also have to show you deserve our trust," he added.

Unfortunately by the time he took the floor, his intended audience Escudero, Cayetano and Aloggay Estrada had already left.

Binay took the middle ground, saying the coalition has no official stand. But he said opposition senators could not be faulted for choosing Villar because he was also an opposition senator.

Bro. Ed not for GMA

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona also gave a solidarity message. Former presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva sent a representative, Lito Monico, to read his message. Bishop Ellel that Villanueva had named "pro-Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Most of the principal leaders of the parties in the GO coalition were not present.

One for the books: Boy lost life saving 4 kids in Pagoda tragedy

From page A1

died during the 1993 annual Pagoda festival in Bocaue. Sajid was among the 376 fatalities of that accident. He died after rescuing four children from drowning."

The book, which was published in May 2007 by Bell Bookstores, is used as a textbook for Alvida classes in private and public elementary schools.

Emijane Mercado, Sajid's sister who teaches computer courses at St. Paul Catholic School here, said her brother made the family proud every time the town celebrates the annual fete in Wawa Irrigation.

Baligi's story of heroism is found in a chapter on the "Mga Dinosaing Filipino" under the topic "Mga Mahalagang Buhay."

"I am glad that many of our children are interested in Sajid's life and the good things he did. He serves as a real model for the youth today," Mercado said the teacher.

Aiden Zerrudo, Department of Education's schools division superintendent in Bulacan, said the book was a good educational tool that teachers can use to teach students about Baligi's bravery and heroism.

Jamil Mercado, 9, a Grade 3 pupil at St. Paul Catholic School who sits the bank in her Alvida class, said many of her classmates looked up to Sajid as a "young hero. Sajid is also Mercado's uncle.

On July 2002, the Bagacian ng Bulsang Pennsylvanian from the City of Meadow and its affiliated groups built in Barangay Bambang here a monument of Baligi carrying on his arms a small child.

Zelinda Baligi, Sajid's mother, said she and her family had been offering prayers and flowers at the monument and his tomb at the Bambang cemetery every July 8.

Following the boat tragedy, festivities were suspended from 1994 to 1999 but resumed in 2000 with less fanfare.

COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

2 Marine commanders relieved

By Christine O. Avendaño

MANILA, OFFICIALS have ordered the relief of two Marine commanders following the savage killing of their troops in an ambush in Albuera, Leyte on July 16 by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces and the Abu Sayyaf.

But Navy spokesperson Commander Christian Carlo Bacordo made it clear yesterday that the move was a standard procedure in the Armed Forces, especially since there was an ongoing investigation being conducted by the military and that more investigations out of the military may be conducted eventually.

The two were temporarily taken out of their posts "so as not to influence the outcome of the (military) investigation and ensure their continued presence in the investigations," Bacordo said in a phone interview.

"It's part of command responsibility but they are not being punished," he added in explaining the relief.

He stressed that this should not be seen as a form of punishment on the two Marine officers because the military investigation into the Leyte debacle was still ongoing.

Ordered relieved were Lt. Col. Pedro M. Andrines, commander of the Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) 9 and his operations officer, Maj. Hector Hernández.

The two officers will be temporarily assigned at the Philippine Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, according to Bacordo.

But to replace Andrines is Lt. Col. Elmer Ferdiel while Hernández will be replaced by Maj. Noel Jo Alfelor, he said.

Asked how soon the changes will be done, Bacordo said this would depend on the recommendation of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Iloilo.

INQUIRER

OPINION

It's political

EDITORIAL

THE FIRST THING WE DO, LET'S KILL ALL THE lawyers, Act at least the kind that has reshaped the scourge of the killings and the disappearances in a manner of unrestricted violence.

At the historic "National Consultative Summit" organized by the Supreme Court earlier this week, most definitions of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances stressed a necessary element: their political motivation. Many participants also noted that "extrajudicial" is too too broad, and could actually refer to any killing without legal sanction, such as a murder committed by a gang of criminals.

So let's call a spade a spade. Let's call the murders of leftist activists, journalists, even judges, after the main element that defines them "political killings." And let's call related disappearances "politically motivated."

Getting the name right may not stop the spree of victims, but at least it will help us avoid the trap that George Orwell warned us about: the misuse of language to conceal the truth, even from ourselves.

In large part, political killings and politically motivated disappearances require political solutions. Several specific proposals raised at the summit deserve a closer look and greater public support.

• For the Department of Health or the Department of the Interior and Local Government to direct municipal health officers to secure DNA samples of unidentified cadavers, for preservation by the Philippine National Police Forensic Laboratory. This will, among other possibilities, allow prosecutors to prosper even when, as is often the case, evidence is found or witnesses come forth late in the day.

• For Malacañang and the Department of Justice to strengthen the Witness Protection Program by dramatically increasing its budget (at present, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, a mere P63 million), to handle some 800 witnesses).

• For the Senate to ratify related United Nations conventions and protocols, including the Rome Treaty creating the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (more informally known as OPCAT).

• For Congress to enact a law defining the parameters of command responsibility.

As the summit itself demonstrated, however, the political branches of government do not have a monopoly on the solutions. Indeed, many of the proposals were premised on the assumption that the Supreme Court would tighten certain procedural requirements, and loosen others, to more effectively safeguard human rights. Some of the proposals include:

• That the Supreme Court promulgate a new rule effecting a Temporary Protection Order to persons who have reasonable cause to fear political violence, an order which will direct either the National Bureau of Investigation or the Philippine National Police to provide petitioner with security.

• That the Supreme Court amend the rules on evidence to require the presence of representatives of the Commission on Human Rights in police investigations of political killings or politically motivated disappearances.

• That the Supreme Court promulgate a new rule allowing habeas corpus proceedings to be complemented by a motion for ocular inspection; that is, a petitioner may ask a court for authority to search specific premises under court-imposed guidelines, perhaps including the presence of representatives of the CHR.

• That the Supreme Court allow a transfer of venue, when a case being heard in court involving a political killing or a politically motivated disappearance in a particular locality may cause undue undue influence.

To be sure, none of these proposals, even if they take effect immediately, can guarantee a stop to the killings and abductions. Not even the proposal, raised in one workshop, that the chief executive's "absolute immunity" privilege be circumscribed without through legislative fiat or through jurisprudence can offer these guarantees.

More than one participant drew attention to the bigger context of the political killings and politically motivated disappearances: that they happen under a national security outlet that a comprehensive peace paradigm. When democratic space itself is under attack, the long term solution is not to counter it, but to widen it.

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Was Reyes removed because of La Mesa?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS TRYING to pull the country together and reconcile the people. In declaring La Mesa a protected environmental site, she rejected the public to shoot her, but she left the door open to land grabbers by reserving the phrase "subject to previous rights." I hope that's not what she meant by that phrase, for which, as anybody who has been in government since the very beginning knows, not the Bicolanos but the Quezon City residents, for a piece of the action. If that's not what she meant, she should clarify her statement.

Anyway I don't think the former employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System have any "private rights" to La Mesa even with the Supreme Court decision confirming their claim. They were bargaining vacated with the MWSS management for a housing project. What the Court affirmed is their housing project, but not ownership or entitlement to La Mesa. The project can be located in another place, preferably the much larger Municipio Novaliches Reservation, as developed. This reservation was originally set aside for a proposed park then as the size of the present Rizal Park, but this project has now been abandoned. And most of the original MWSS seven members are already dead and those who would be eligible to be beneficiaries for

Women of Science

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

THE PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines Commencement in 2006 is in full swing. As with their centennial observances, they will be lots of celebrations and honors for UP alumni of distinction over the years.

In this connection, there should be a celebration on the "boom and the bust phase" UP women achievers of the century. We certainly should honor the many women who have been firsts in their fields, for instance. She was a pioneer: the first woman physician in the Philippines and an early proto-feminist (government official sent to the United States to further training).

But we should honor the living as well, who have excelled in teaching, research and community service. She threw fundamental questions as a university. I've had the good fortune of knowing two such women of high achievement, and they will be the subject of this commentary. Both have already been honored in the past as distinguished alumnae. Both have had popular accomplishments no worth repeating for the sake of history.

Dr. Cleofe Bautista's career is synonymous with the Philippine Science High School and the PSHS Foundation, serving both with passion for 15 years. A PSHS graduate of the Class of '67 (minor in Math), she has consistently advocated the cause of science in the country, particularly through the training of young geniuses. Appropriately the 2 1/4 page book about her life edited by Florentina Apolinario and Francisco Nemo, is titled "Cleofe Bautista: Science Is Fun." Cleofe's signature marketing lure effort is the Philippine Science High School.

Barangay 2 is the quintessential teacher if there is one. She was the Physics teacher (college school and "humanities" subject, who exemplified a rare combination of intelligence, humility, patience, kindness, tolerance and understanding. She could have sustained a small-town student all her life but science was too strong a calling to resist.

After getting her Ph.D. in science education from the State University of Iowa, she joined the fledgling PSHS, eventually becoming its director for the next 15 years. Under her administration, the PSHS became the vanguard for the education of gifted Filipino youth in science and math. Her intellectual leadership put the Philippines on the global map in science education. It's hard to summarize 500 pages of her administrative and project documents, trustees, peers, parents and the community. But if there was a theme one sees in the capacious legacy, it is the "motivation building."

Even retired, she recalls that her toughest battle during the martial law years was the struggle to suppress angry student militants while supporting with the dictatorship to restore fresh intellect resources for the school. She said now big and mesmerizing the school through endless political, social and economic upheavals was her biggest challenge as PSHS director. It took a lot of courage and personal sacrifice.

It's only fitting that the school be named after her. Perfecto Director it does.

Dr. Perla D. Santos-Ocampo is for other female scientist of science coming of the highest accolades. Her colleagues from the UP Molecular Class of 1955 have every reason to be proud of her. As an international readily renowned pediatrician, UP alumna, chancellor, UP faculty regent and president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, among other prestigious positions, Santos-Ocampo epitomizes quite the brilliant and effective leadership. Her source as UP Manila chancellor (1991-95) has been called the "Golden Years" replete with imaginative and innovative achievements. She was able to unify a once fractious campus into a truly world-class academic institution with her vision and formidable personal qualities.

People who've worked with Susan Ocampo claim the world about her. Former UP regent Nilda Bautista calls her "the mother of all pearls." Former UP president Emil Javier goes even further, calling Susan Ocampo "not only a pearl," but a "gem, and now a fabulous." UP Los Baños has named a "behind-the-scenes" in her honor, which will be launched next month in a ceremonial program. I'm curious to see this term "behind" is a reason. Whatever it also the state flower and harvest.

Both Barangay and Susan Ocampo have truly distinguished themselves in the world of science, which makes all Filipinos proud. Susan Ocampo also founded the Philippine Association for the Gifted, fortunately its president with Barangay as vice president. In addition to superior intelligence, both are women of admirable work ethic and orientation.

Both have many things in common, especially their ability to inspire people and get things done. Both also seem to have a "gender" human archetypes—as sets, no pretenses, no further desire other supreme achievements.

In a society that has institutionalized the wrong things like corruption, inequality, arrogance, ignorance, mediocrity, complacency, schooling and dealing and so on, these women stand out as exemplars of the kind of institutional leadership and productivity that the country urgently needs to move forward in the international community.

Belinda A. Aquino, University of Hawaii professor and director of Philippine Studies, is spending a summer fellowship at the Philippine Social Science Council.

Public spaces

"TOO SOME OF THEM ARE OVER LOADED," GLDA Gordon Fernando noted, in response to my article last Wednesday about how the few playgrounds we have are not very child-friendly.

Definitely, and other passive destinations, the issue we lose important is in to have children's playgrounds, especially in cities. In rural areas, children at least have the space to run around in, to explore and to socialize. In urban areas, school playgrounds, children are confined to homes, increasingly alone and, while watching television. Worse, they do go out, it's in malls. There where they grow up, we wonder why they're obese and uncivil, if not downright lout in comportment.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

But here's all kinds of excuses for not having playgrounds: no budget, no personnel, no space. Covered in this, I hear people often complaining that Filipinos have no sense of public responsibility. Create a park and they'll vandalize it and litter and spit and piss on it, expecting government to clean up their mess.

I'd argue that the root lack of a sense of public responsibility is directly related to our lack of designated public space. I'm using the term "designated" to emphasize how we can make spaces meaningful as people, in the public sphere they begin to own the those spaces. And if we have enough of these meaningful public spaces, then we encourage people to care for them.

Sidewalk gardens

I actually see this happening in urban poor areas, including those with informal families like the ones politically cut into the Sen. Ninoy Aquino Avenue (NAIA) Expressway. Go to some of these places, which are densely populated with very little open space left. To give you a sense of this, in one to that was less than 1,000 sq. m., I found 150 households with a total population of 127, plus assorted dogs, cats, chickens, pigeons and one pig.

One day on my way to visit one community I noticed on the sidewalk right outside their settlement that there was a whole bunch of alugbati (a native vegetable) growing. I asked around and found out the informal settlers had planted it, together with malunggay. As I looked closely, I noticed there also had camote, kangkong and eggplant.

Don't think of the sidewalk as a concrete walkway; it was actually a patch of soil, about half a meter wide and two meters long, already with an edging. I'm certain it's public property yet the community had appropriated it. There were no cars using it, and the would enjoy the patch, but the photos, which are readily quite handy in this first place, were evening and people would come and harvest as they wished.

Ah my friend Mario Matilla, I've found similar patches, with all kinds of stuff being grown in them. In one place in Malate, one household had even built a small fish pond, complete with a little fountain.

All this reminds me of the "allotment" system in Britain and the former lands, where strips of land are given, divided into little parcels, where people can plant. It's not anything new here that in Western Europe, because there are highly urbanized, very populated countries. But the British also have a long tradition of social democracy, which includes looking for ways to provide public spaces, with services, to everyone.

"Tambayan"

Hear why couldn't we have that here as well? Such barangay could have their public space, which could then be planned in such a way that it becomes space for people of all ages. Public spaces, especially those in cities, shouldn't be an extension of the concrete jungle outside. They should offer a safe oasis for both juveniles and elderly. In China, many playgrounds end up as a place for the elderly as well, who bring their grandchildren to play while they themselves socialize with the other elderly, under the trees. The playgrounds come to life because with so many people, you have vendors coming in, even musicians and "installation artists" like the ones who pictured to be nuisance. On the children love that.

Parents complain all the time about their adolescents disdain going off and disappearing, "as if you did have public spaces, they'll use them. Bosses, mind if they disappear from time to time, as long as they're not in trouble. Without public, there'll be enough social control to curb their activities. The problem arises when there is no public space and adolescents have no choice but to be themselves. They're then likely to become concerned for that.

Public space is synonymous space, that were owned from the barangay to the city, which could not be idle. People will assume responsibilities, looking after the children, cleaning up, maintaining a garden.

There's much money to be made in the business of such a multi-purpose public space. Again, I've seen how people could make a killing from selling food in an outdoor setting for public property. Urbanites would rediscover food plants, maybe even medicinal plants. Many plants, targeted for example, are both for eating and for medicinal purposes.

Environmental groups could come in teaching recycling and garbage segregation and composting. And the children would have a playground that exposes them to nature as well, even as they learn that vegetables grow on land, not in a grocery freezer.

There's mentoring called the social concrete ethos, where people could go to where they can get a good thing going. I suspect we'll end up having a problem of having too many people wanting to get into the act.

I have a friend who lives in a subdivision. She owns two adjoining lots, one with her house and the other as empty piece of land. She began to plant vegetables and flowers on the empty lot, and soon had a thriving garden. She could get a morning of exercise, seeds from another. Then she had people offering to help her tend the place, in exchange for the right to harvest some of the plants.

Common areas can possess systems of private space, including locked playgrounds, and the issuing will retain even more than MPI customers. Give these public spaces and they will develop a greater sense of communal responsibility. Whatsmore, people we'll own and up with a much lesser nuisance.

Missing Email

To a different tune, my friends and I have started receiving disappearing email. Many email servers that deal with corporations or institutions like University of the Philippines, for example) now have a spam filtering system in any incoming email that seems like an ad or a chain letter automatically puts into a separate folder beside the regular "Inbox" email. To avoid getting lost, it's easy for automated spam in the way it can separate important correspondence, including memos from your boss! It's happened to me, many times in the last few weeks as I've made it a habit now to check other folders. If you use Yahoo Anti-Spam, that program also allows you to select folders to check that are

Comments are welcome at mcapin@pcaa.edu.

Fighting but also using wisdom

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS A GATHERING OF SOME OF THE MOST powerful, influential, but also socially aware women around—and it was a chance to see how far we've come since the days, women-women and civic-social Soria Magsaysay Ho and the leaders of the Young Presidents Organization, particularly Ana Domingo and Tina Tan, but also the point of how far we still have to go. Because while we've made much to speak of her life and experience, it became clear why she has become such an inspirational presence.

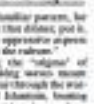
Dressed in a long skirt, white lacy blouse and shawl, her hair pulled back and her face free of much fuss, Imelda Marcos looked every bit the stylized "icon" for which she is. And for the tribunes' ardent fans in her native Manila, she is even more: a "mother to Ilocos," a lawyer who is "the only one who can help us," a political survivor.

Before it today was known as the woman who broke the shoes imposed on women in the Manila society of her society, before she dared speak up, silence was imposed on just on the women. Filipinos were to obey men—husbands, lawyers. While she was defending her shoe fetish charge, a woman named Amelia Lopez who found a death sentence by sending for alleged soldiers, Imelda found that women were too emotional to be trusted with power. She had to force herself to write down her thoughts and to have a male steward dictate what she had written. She realized the imposed silence as much as she could until one day she told an interviewer, "I decided I will not be silenced." And when she started writing, addressed the judge, and when he seemed restless, she requested "We want to record that I stood up as soon as I could not to sit down."

* * *

Al Pendatun told Blas Ople-Bautista in an article for *GF* magazine, the courtroom "went dead quiet" as she read the judge looked over, until he gave in and declared, "Yes what you want to say and done to shoes."

Ople-Bautista wrote, when a woman she had stood a headstrength for women within the Islamic justice system, Ibrahim chose to pull back and made a non-controversial point of



order. It would become a familiar pattern, he as Imelda Ibrahim, a pause in that debate, put it, "You are fighting the most oppressive system of all your colleagues from within the ranks."

For Ibrahim, surviving the "stigma" of breaking ground and making waves meant carefully negotiating her way through the waters of conservatism and Islamism, bowing her head against her injustices imposed on women and children through the Sharia law, while taking care not to actually attack the institution or religious leaders. Or as she put it, "I will fight, but I will also not rebel."

In the Amelia Lopez case, that meant setting the argument of her client, not by attacking Sharia law or its interpretation, but by asserting the evidence that had been laid out against Lopez, the lack of witnesses and other technical, legal and legal errors committed during the prosecution. Lopez was acquitted of the charge. In part because the case had gathered international attention, but even then the blessings were mixed. Her family refused to accept her daughter who had been released from jail. In their village, no man dared to adopt the girl, who had to be content taking as her own.

* * *

SINCE then, Ibrahim, who now has a postage stamp issued in her name as a police director and prosecutor, spends much of her time defending poor litigants, though she is best known in Mindanao for her defense of women discarded by their husbands.

Ibrahim also has been fired with a desire to right the injustices committed against women in other parts of the Islamic world, traveling to Afghanistan, for instance, to advise the new government on the implementation of Sharia laws without prejudice to women. But she is also pragmatic. "Some Muslim countries, even in many of us are, there is very little we can do," she remarks.

Ibrahim notes how the situation of women varies widely throughout countries where Sharia is dominant, from progressive countries like Turkey where women are assuming their positions in politics, to Saudi Arabia, where women are denied most rights.

If she is passionate about her work, it's because it has become her way of paying back the many times she was denied justice. She grew up poor, born to a poor family in a village in Cotabato in western Mindanao, to know her bit of poverty and ignorance. She keeps in mind her mother's words, she says, remembering how her mother would advise women, "If you're going to get married, don't be harassing for family's hardships. And yet, when Ibrahim chose to leave her village and family to seek higher education, and when she married her Indian husband, her family cursed them both out and refused to give her their blessing. "I guess she's paid a dear price to reach her goal and her dream.

* * *

PEREZ Ibrahim was sharing with the group the issue of child marriages in Nigeria, and the situation of women living under Islamic laws, it seemed quite easy to breathe a sigh of relief and thank the times we were born Filipinas. Indeed, many women thought we should be grateful for living under a secular legal system.

And yet, as lawyer Katrina Legarda pointed out, in the Philippines the age of sexual consent has been pinned at 12 years old, making it possible for a man to endure a 12-year-old and not be charged with statutory rape. Even as Catholic authorities think it's wrong to provide sex education to children before the age of 18.

The point in listening to women like Hadja Ibrahim, I think, is not to thank our lucky stars, but rather to see how much we have in common. And if only we would listen to hers and sincerely, we would see just how much we share her and her sisters' fate.

Formation

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

READING STRAIGHT THROUGH "Pedrito Risalda Risalda's Journey" by Gerardo Bolalio Drew Rock, Dave and Company, 1928) was quite an experience. I was once taught to trust all historians, but nowadays I tend to find historians with suspicions and contempt. After all, these textbooks were supposed to have contributed to the "miseducation" of the Filipino. However, our current textbooks cannot compare even on something as basic as their physical look and feel. Old books have large margins and end on a neat point. More importantly, most and our final comment not to be children. Old books have beautiful plain covers with profiles standing, while today we have soft-cover books standing with glue so that a book's pages can be easily torn out. Despite the "old" in the book's title of things, the old textbooks will outlive our present crop any time.

My selection of old Philippine textbooks have been restricted by manageable, and the names of historians remain unfamiliar save for a few. Since books are made of number one's time, these can be studied, analyzed and enjoyed even today. I wonder what material will be left for the historian doing Philippine education in the late 20th century because the paper quality of many textbooks is too inferior, it's not even fit to be used as toilet paper.

The first is "Philippine Readers" had clear, clean bookish type, on paper that was thick yet, needle's eyed the writing on the torn page unlike the present crop. The "Readers" series illustrated by Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos Francisco, Fabian de la Rosa and others, are very valuable now because of their artistic merit. Like many books that came by anyone of the same names, or, in time, the same artistic competence?

Some may argue that be a bibliophile, I'm too preoccupied with the physical aspect of books and suggest that I pay more attention to the text. Well, if there are errors of memory, fact and grammar are worse than what have already been publicly exposed, we are really in deep trouble.

Ambeth R. Ocampo is a historian and columnist. Email him at ambeth.ocampo@gmail.com.

Barbaric and treacherous act

FOR TRYING TO RESCUE A KIDnapped Italian priest from his abductors, 14 Philippine Marines lost their lives in a bloody ambush staged by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The MILF spokesman said that our soldiers swooped into their territory without first coordinating with them. This is baloney. The MILF knew from the very beginning that government forces had been secretly operating in many areas in an effort to rescue the priest. The rescue operation was based on tips.

The MILF promptly admitted to have staged the ambush. This tragic event could have been charged as "usurpation of war" if indeed there was a raging war. But there is an existing ceasefire between the government and the MILF at the moment. But there is an ongoing peace negotiations. The carnage was, to say the least, an act of most blows of all; it was the height of treachery; it is not farfetched that the Marines were led to the ambush area on tips connected by the MILF, in collaboration with the Abu Sayyaf.

The dead Marines were decapitated, and their private parts, arms and legs severed. That was a brutal act which violated basic tenets of the Islamic faith. The area embodied barbarism and it definitely left Bonnie. This act of terrorism should not be condoned. The evil that perpetrated that abominable act ought to be ostracized from society.

We will not take it against our soldiers if they retaliate. You do not cajole, with a pat on the back, a man that has gone berserk, for the most flesh it will bite off you, savaging it will not reassure you completely.

The government may pursue with the peace negotiation, but it should not end dead with the murderous elements of the MILF with full force and might; it should wipe them off the face of Basilan.

This tragic event ought to draw a lesson to government's peace negotiator that peace can only be lasting and stable if the weapons of mass destruction that are in the hands of the MILF will be removed over to the authority.

This dreadful event serves as a warning that... if given a modicum of their own wherein not even our peacekeeping troops can eject one, the MILF separatist forces, which have committed themselves to the cinch, will not hesitate to butcher our soldiers again and again and again. We cannot afford to have a Somalia. We want peace, but we should not allow our yearning for peace to be brutally abused.

—EDGAR PALMA,
edpalma1502@yahoo.com,

LETTERS

Let iron hand fall on terrorists

THE SOUTHEAST LAS NORCS activists are trying to kill, some by implacement explosively (it is about the world time we are seeing no our fight against terrorism.

Regarding the murdered Marines, their comrades and all people who have respect for human life must band together and punish those who committed it.

To Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: please unleash the dogs of war and declare total war on all forces against the separatists, rebels and terrorists who have nothing to lose but the destruction of human lives and the republic. There is only one country for Christians and Muslim Filipinos, and true to the Philippines.

—BOY BARCENTIL,
novalites@hotmail.com

RA 9064 covers 'Olympic' events

THIS IS IN REACTION TO MS. Ann Hagen Ady (October 2006, "RA 9064 should extend Parog, Reta, too," which, in effect, asserted the inadequacy of Republic Act 9064—a law which gives each Filipino athlete "an additional cash incentive"... the Indian swimmer Aniket among tremendification such great athletes as Rafael "Paeng" Sepulveda and Eliza "Baby" Reyes.

Regarding the mentioned Marines, their comrades and all people who have respect for human life must band together and punish those who committed it.

To Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: please unleash the dogs of war and declare total war on all forces against the separatists, rebels and terrorists who have nothing to lose but the destruction of human lives and the republic. There is only one country for Christians and Muslim Filipinos, and true to the Philippines.

—BOY BARCENTIL,
novalites@hotmail.com

What Migz Zubiri needs to do

WHEN I LEARNED THAT JUNIOR Miguel "Migz" Zubiri clinched the 12th spot in the senatorial elections, I was shocked. Although I am here in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, I get to read inquirer.net and watch the news from ABS-CBN Pinoy TV now and then.

I know that, a few weeks after the elections and nominees came out and told of massive cheating in Maguindanao, Cheik Benjamin Abubo said that the Comelec would declare a failure of elections in that province. I don't know why the Comelec finally opted to name the controversial Maguindanao votes—which, by the way, I voted. Anyway, it's all done, and there's nothing more for me to do.

Some time ago, I managed to watch a re-airing of "Philippine Agenda," ABS-CBN's pre-election special series, and the right issues/problems in the Philippines that need to be addressed by the

Unforgetful and unforgiving

I DON'T WANT TO FORGET AND forgive. But former Vice President Teofisto Guingona seems to have forgotten (but not forgiven) what Joseph Estrada has done to this country. Guingona's not trolling for Estrada's release; now a cheap and unsuccessful attempt to paint a "new" man: Estrada.

The Senators present are not asking about a plausible and honest explanation from Estrada. It is obvious that public interest is not a priority of most politicians; private interest is more like it.

I say Guingona has no forgiven Estrada because he has yet to take back his former "I Accuse" speech, which he delivered when he was still a senator. He now says that we should free Estrada because he is a changed man. Which means that Estrada was flawed from the very beginning, or this Guingona himself believed that Estrada was and is still guilty of the charges, only that we should set him free because the current administration has a hone to pick with the disgraced former president.

The allegations against the current administration are a worry to many, altogether irrelevant to the Estrada case. Estrada is the one on trial, not the current government.

I refuse to be cheated by (at least rhetoric). I would rather keep my focus clear on the reality that Estrada is being tried for a crime against the Filipino people. Politicians should remember that—the Filipino people.

I do not pro-administration; I am pro-Filipino. I share in the sentiment of the millions of disliking Filipinos who are sick and tired of being lauded as the most forgiving of all races but ridiculed behind their backs at the equivalent of silage and the spineless.

The judiciary should hold Estrada and his cronies responsible for plundering, through frontal publicity, the destitute on his case in chair not an sudden attempt to blackmail the Filipino people. I am sick of the "fake" talking the "artistic displays" of legal flies—money that rightfully belongs to the Filipino people. The matters down conspicuous to plunder. And they are not gentlemen; they obviously subscribe to the notion that "he who dances the loudest, wins."

If that is their game, then I call on all thinking Filipinos here and abroad: cry foul, lament, wail and march—not to Edsa—but to the listening of federal snippets. Guarantee Estrada. The Filipino people deserve that victory.

—DIOSDADO PONCE TACARDELO,
dennis.ragandia@gmail.com

HSA: challenge to media, civic groups

THE HUMANE SECURITY ACT IS being smashed in the media as an ill-freedom and as a cure of the heinous administration to advance its interests and prolong its hold on power. Militant groups have staged protests rallies on assistance that their true thing I have yet to hear is a suggestion to "improve" this law.

Nobody has explained the HSA point to point, so I guess the majority of Filipinos do not really

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Across the NATION

MILF defiant, won't turn in killers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) yesterday stood by its earlier statement that it would not surrender those behind the July 10 attack in Albarka, Basilan, where 14 Marine soldiers were killed.

On Wednesday, Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon warned during a visit here that the military will unleash its troops if the rebel group failed to turn over Commander Abraham and the rest of the MILF's 114th Base Command by Sunday.

"If they fail ...we can take any options," Esperon said.

The Basilan attack—in which 10 of the 14 Marines killed had been beheaded—was viewed by the government, the MILF and analysts as a bloody test for peace process.

Prior to the attack, which the MILF owned up to, preparations were being taken for the resumption of the stalled peace negotiations.

"This will really have an implication," Secretary Jesse Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said.

Police action

Esperon said aside from a battalion of Marines that was deployed in Basilan from Subic over the weekend, another battalion arrived on Wednesday.

A total of four battalions of Marines are now in Basilan under the 1st Marine Brigade.

"We are here on continuing our plans for police action against the perpetrators. We must be able to find out who perpetrated this. We ask the MILF for cooperation on this since they acknowledged that it was their own men who embarked on. We ask them to turn over the perpetrators of the beheading," Esperon said.

The MILF has admitted that its troops were involved in the attack but insisted that there was no treachery involved and that it was an encounter, not an ambush.

Defensive stance

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF's information officer and chief negotiator, denied that MILF guerrillas in Albarka beheaded the Marines.

He said the MILF was determined to protect its territory and its forces in Basilan and that any military offensive will be met with resistance.

If the MILF still not cooperate with the authorities, Esperon said, the military will unleash all means to flush out the suspects.

"And so if indeed they will not, then we are still determined to punish those who committed this foul beastly and inhuman act," he said.

"This (barbaric act) is no longer under the guise of peace process. As much as possible, we want to follow the mechanics as provided for in the peace process. But on the matter of punishing those who committed the barbaric act, we may not," Esperon said.

But Iqbal said Esperon's warning would not help the peace process.

"We understand that they lost some soldiers, but such positioning is not helpful to the peace process. Such positioning should not be done at the expense of the peace process," Iqbal said.

Chief Supt. Josel Cobilan, police director for the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said criminal charges have already been filed against Abraham and his men.

Cobilan said the filing of the charges gave no further a passport to run after Abraham's group.

Iqbal said it was normal for the police to file charges against suspected criminals but that, this would not force the MILF to hand over Abraham and his men.

Charges

Iqbal said both MILF and government should wait for the results of the investigation of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) led by Malaysia before any action is taken.

The Malaysian government, which mediates the peace negotiations between the government and MILF has already agreed to send a team from the IMT to Basilan, according to another rebel official.

Jun Mastrodi, MILF's peace panel secretariat chief, said the guerrillas received the information on the Malaysian investigation yesterday.

Julie S. Alipala, Edwin Fernando, Anad Abudana and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

A 2,000-six by-six Marines prepare for deployment to Lamitan, Basilan, following the deaths of 14 of their comrades in the hands of MILF guerrillas.

Cordillera cops undergo seminar on terror law

BAGUIO CITY—MEMBERS OF THE CORDILLera police have undergone a four-day seminar here to familiarize them on the human rights law, or the antiterror law.

Supt. Ami Imtuch, Cordillera police spokesperson, said they were worried that the policemen's ambitions with the law overall limit them as they wanted to shorten the police's role in implementing the law as early as possible.

The IHL, or Republic Act 9372, took effect on July 15.

Imtuch said lawyers and officials of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) talked about the law's provisions and the police's responsibility in implementing them.

The law had several policemen because of the stiff penalties that they would incur if they violated provisions on arrest and detention of suspects/prisoners, he said.

He said some policemen have even either overstayed or did not understand the law at all.

"There is a lingering fear from those who oppose the law and even from those who are tasked to implement it. We do not know anything about the human security act [and] there is the 'fear of the unknown,'" Imtuch said.

The seminar, which started on Wednesday at Camp Dangwa in Benguet, gathered police directors, investigation officials and other top police officials from the Cordillera.

Gamma Abres, deputy secretary general of Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said they will stage a protest rally to oppose the IHA on Monday when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address at the opening of Congress.

Braylen Cabiaso, Inquirer Northern Luzon

REFORM OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM NOW!

Despite the many flaws in the process and administration of the May 14 elections, it appears the popular will of the electorate was generally able to manifest itself in the final results of the election.

Much of the credibility of the outcome can be attributed to the courage of the media in reporting anomalies in spite of personal risks to the reporters, and to the vigilance, volunteerism, and coordinated action of the citizenry. We laud the many people who worked hard for credible elections in May 2007. We commend the National Citizens' Movement for Free Election (NAMFREL), the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA), the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, the Catholic Media Network, and the newly organized Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE), among the many citizens groups active in the elections. Their efforts undoubtedly contributed to the emergence of a new political consciousness among the electorate.

Failure of the COMELEC Leadership

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of COMELEC, whose lack of political will and determination to safeguard the electoral process contributed to the proliferation of electoral fraud, election-related violence, voter disenfranchisement, irregularities in procedure, and other anomalies that degrade the character of Philippine democracy.

There is enough evidence to support the finding that there was a failure of elections in Maguindanao or that elections did not take place in many areas in the province. There were allegations by watchdog groups that election procedures were highly irregular, such that the results were severely compromised. But COMELEC did not take these allegations seriously, nor did it undertake a thorough investigation to uncover and prosecute those responsible for the anomalies, as it is mandated to do. Thus, we continue to witness the sad plight of our Mindanao brethren, victimized by a handful of operators and deprived of their rights to freely express their voice through a credible electoral process.

These problems point directly to a failure of COMELEC leadership. The dismal record of the Abalos Commission remains unbroken, not only in its mismanagement of the electoral process but also in its pre-election failure to implement the statutory mandate to automate the process and to advocate badly needed electoral reform legislation. In view of this, we express our strong support of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' call for electoral reforms.

Electoral Reforms Needed

We believe that Chairman Abalos may yet restore public confidence in the COMELEC by voluntarily resigning from his position. In light of the public's disgust with the poll body, it is the most honorable and statesmanlike act he can make in his public life. We call for the immediate appointment of a new Chair and the seventh commissioner, both of whom should possess unquestioned integrity and competence. Furthermore, those COMELEC officials responsible for anomalies in the 2004 and 2007 elections should be held accountable for their actions.

Under new leadership, the process of modernizing the electoral system should begin immediately in order to be functional in time for the 2010 presidential election.

The laws affecting our electoral system, particularly in the areas of campaign finance, party-list, and political dynasties, should be reassessed in light of the continuing abuses. COMELEC's role as a judicial body should be reconsidered in view of its primary role as administrator of the process.

FINEX

Management Association of the Philippines

The Philippine Business Club

BCDA wants Japanese exec out for SCTEx delay

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE board of directors of the Subic Conversion Development Authority has agreed to the reassignment of Japanese consultants to fire the manager of a Japanese contractor building the Subic-Tarlac expressway (SCTEx) due to project delays.

BCDA president Horacio Abaya confirmed this to the business on Thursday here.

Abaya said the board on June 23 wrote to Tasuma Hagata, project manager of Pacific Consultants International, Katahira and Engineers International and Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. (PCI-KEI-NK), that it had approved the dismissal of Hisano Otsubo.

Otsubo is the project manager of the Kajima Corp., Obayashi Corp., JFE Engineering Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. (KOMI) joint venture.

Isaac Paco, officer in-charge of the BCDA board, signed the letter on behalf of the agency. The BCDA is the proponent of the 94-kilometer, four-lane toll road linking the Subic and Clark freeports in Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga and Tarlac, and the Luzon Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

Justification for delay

Abaya said Otsubo is responsible for the SCTEx delay.

Abaya said the cost of Otsubo's stay "lost in his commitment to finish the contract in two months" or in March 2008. The original deadline in the 30-km portion of the SCTEx was in November this year.

"He has to give us a detailed catch plan, which will be the subject of normalization by the engineers and the board. But, he goes," Abaya said of Otsubo's role on the project.

Otsubo did not answer calls and text messages from the business.

No grudge

A BCDA official said Otsubo did "not have any grudge toward the BCDA."

"We would like to concentrate on the construction and minimize the delay—the focus that BCDA wants us to address," said the official, who asked not to be named because he wanted the negotiation for deadline extension to be limited within BCDA and BCDA.

The other contractor, the Hanjin Group's Hanjin Nippon Steel (HYNS) Joint Venture, had not asked for a deadline extension and committed to finish some months before the Nanguipa-Subic portion.

The two contractors earlier said in their deadline extension requests to the BCDA that right-of-way problems had caused some of the delays.

They said banks bought as close of the project were not made immediately available to the contractors.

The SCTEx is a key component of President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to accelerate the growth of Central Luzon on Subic and Clark. Doomsday Oregon, Inquirer Central Luzon

WELCOME BALLOONS
Workers prepare to hang balloons to welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo who inaugurated yesterday the Subic Bay Container Terminal 1 at the Subic Freeport.

DA to set up data bank on veggie volume

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Department of Agriculture and the province's traders agreed to establish a data bank on the arrival volume of highland vegetables shipped daily to Metro Manila and other provinces.

The move, which will be led by the regional Effs agribusiness and marketing assistance division, was meant to restrain vegetable supply in Metro Manila and cushion the impact of any gap in vegetable production, he said.

"The data base will enhance the farmers' production strategies and facilitate the transport of food products to the various demand centers in Metro Manila where urban poor communities are concentrated," Patricio Anunayo, division chief, said.

The information that the data bank would provide would also be useful in guiding vegetable importers, he said.

The data would be taken from the volume of vegetables loaded from the trading post Baguio to Dominican the available tonnes to the members of the Benguet Traders and Truckers Association (BTTA) and the Benguet Vegetable Truck Owners Association (BVTOA).

Agusto Balonza, BTTA liaison officer, said the organization would support data gathering.

The province's farmers have also taken interest on the production volumes coming from the vegetable producing towns.

Farmers from Buscapan Norte, east in Kibungan town host to the province's data gathering of vegetable production in the farm gates.

Mayor Roberto Madrigal (farmers' federation president, said the members decided to monitor their own production levels following price fluctuations at the trading post that often caused them losses.

"We learned much from the dip in cabbage prices last month when the crop hit bottom at only P3 a kilogram," he said.

"For now, there are some production areas we limit ourselves to how many we were producing for every kind of vegetable in a given period," he said.

The group's information showed that Buscapan Montemorn brought 4.3 million kg of vegetables to the trading post here from June 2 to June 8.

Item showed that cabbage was the most produced (2.63 million kg), followed by carrots (890,500 kg), broccoli (921,100 kg), radish (293,900 kg) and others (2,000 kg).

During the dialogue with the BA, officials of the police and the Traffic Management Group (TMG) said they would support the establishment of a data bank.

They also vowed to secretly enforce quarantine measures and stop trucks bearing fake "Food Safe" stickers. Reiner Cabrido, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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FOGGING, according to health authorities, is not the end-all solution to dengue. In some areas, fogging has aggravated dengue in some areas, said health officials. Inquirer Northern Luzon

Health execs discourage fogging in war on dengue

By Kit Bagayao
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—HEALTH officials continued to discourage indiscriminate fogging as a means to stop the spread of dengue, saying it wasn't effective in the fight against the deadly mosquito-borne disease.

Dr. Joseph Tagle, regional coordinator of the Department of Health, said the best strategy against dengue is still the "four Fs"—search and destroy mosquito breeding sites; self-preservation measures like using mosquito nets; seeking early treatment; and saying no to indiscriminate fogging.

Fogging, he said, should be done only if there was a confirmed outbreak of the disease.

Regional health teams led by Tagle and Dr. Napoleon Mendiola, were in Bohol to help spread information on how to fight dengue. The number of dengue cases in the province continues to rise.

DOH officials, however, said there was no need to declare an outbreak in Bohol.

Tagle said DOH studies had shown that fogging was not effective against dengue.

In some instances, Tagle said, fogging may fail to see increase in the number of dengue cases.

Tagle said after Tagbilaran, the regional DOH team would proceed to the towns of Trenio and Jagna where the number of dengue cases were also high.

Tagbilaran has a total of 180 cases; Jagna reported 40 cases while Trenio has a total of 27 cases since January.

Since July 1, the provincial health office established 64 cases province-wide.

Tagle said while there was no outbreak, a high level of alert was raised in Bohol and it was now being monitored as a dengue "hot spot."

The number of people struck by dengue, however, could be higher as provincial health authorities relied only on hospital records for their data.

Dr. Medalen's urging, barangay captains and health authorities in the city declared 16 to 4:00 p.m. every morning Wednesday as cleanup dengue brigades and to activate the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams.

The groups will be tasked with a massive information drive and an search and destroy wars in eliminating breeding grounds of the dengue-carrying Aedes aegypti mosquito.

Aragoncillo gets 10 years; Erap says too harsh

Front page A1

did not seem to hear the United States but said his actions caused some harm to...

"There's no doubt you did betray a portion of trust that very few people are privileged to receive," Wolfowitz...

Aragoncillo, 48, a former US Marine who went to work as a military aide to Vice President Al Gore and Dick Cheney before joining the FBI as a civilian employee at the Monmouth, New Jersey, pleaded guilty in June 2006 to a deal that spared him from a life sentence but he faces conviction of espionage.

Judge Ellis heard both Aragoncillo's and Aquino's pleas.

ARAGONCILLO says sorry but that he only acted to help the Filipino people.

ESTRADA: Documents are not classified. So many read the same information in the papers.

LACSON: Also a recipient of the so-called classified documents.

Info in papers, not classified

Estrada on Thursday described the prime items stolen out in both cases as "harsh." He said the documents obtained by the two, some of which he received by e-mail, contained information that were nowhere near classified.

"It's very harsh . . . Rest easy is information that has been read by so many in the newspapers be considered classified?" Estrada told The Associated Press by telephone from his residence in Tanay, Rizal, where he is under house arrest awaiting the verdict in his plunder trial.

Estrada said Aquino and Aragoncillo were for friends but motived by their political motive for obtaining the information.

US prosecutors since stoked Estrada in detention and for said he told them the same thing. Estrada said he also showed some of the documents to emissaries of President Macapagal-Arroyo to prove that the information was nowhere...

terms that could help the bill pursue charges against Aquino in connection with the murders of public relations practitioner Bubby Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in 2000.

Bill spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said he met FBI officers Grace Mamon and Jayne Imrisek, and Jim Ed in the IS in March during [illegible].

"Mamon and Imrisek, who gave assurances [illegible] truth, said many things which could be helpful in pending cases in the Philippines, like the Dacer-Corbito case," Diaz said.

"Mamon reportedly disclosed Aquino's participation in the double murders. Doubles reportedly revealed how he escaped from Camp Crame and who helped him escape to the US," Diaz said.

After serving his prison term, Aquino is likely to be deported to the Philippines.

Aquino admitted possessing secret documents containing information on the United States' confidential intelligence sources and methods, as well as information on terrorist threats to US military personnel in the Philippines.

Aquino, who fled to the United States in 2001 to escape murder charges in the Philippines, lived with his wife and son in the New York City borough of Queens. He and Aragoncillo were arrested in September 2005.

Prosecutors said Aragoncillo, who joined the Office of the Vice President in 1999, was recruited in 2000 by Philippine opposition forces and began working with Aquino in early 2001.

Aragoncillo admitted passing information to Aquino and Philippine opposition figures who wanted to oust President Arroyo. The plot involved the theft of classified national defense documents from the White House and the FBI.

Aside from Estrada, recipients of the documents included Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the Philippine National Police chief during the Estrada administration, and former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, according to court documents.

Estrada and Lacson acknowledged receiving information from Aquino or Aragoncillo, but denied any wrongdoing. Where he was a senior police officer, Aquino served under Lacson in the PNP.

American prosecutors said Aragoncillo's "charges" to the national security, including the foreign relations, of the United States" by attempting to demobilize and neutralize Mr Arroyo.

Report by Jerome Aning and Tina G. Santos, AP, UPI

Mula sa Presidente ng Republika ng Pilipinas

Proklamasyon Bilang 1321

Ang Hulyo 20, 2007 ay itinuturing na "Peripheral Arterial Disease Day (PAD)" upang bigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pagkilala sa sintomas ng PAD, at maagang pag-alam at paggagamot nito, kaya ito lamang at maging sanhi ng paghina ng binti at ng pagka-putol nito.

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NISSAN

GMA bats for cheaper power as Meralco hikes rates by P1/kWh

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday said she would want a public power supply because she knows rates for businesses and households.

"Electricity should not only be available, I hope it is also affordable," the President yesterday told Cabinet and local officials and leaders of the private sector gathered at the conference of the Luzon Urban Beltway super region cluster.

In the President's assessment, "power rates are so high" in Luzon, with the exception of the Subic and Clark free ports.

"We feel sorry for those not operating inside free ports," she said.

P1 increase

Ms Arroyo's statement came following the announcement of Manila Electric Co. of a P1 increase per kilowatt hour (kwh) starting in consumers this month. The amount is in line with Meralco unbilled systemwide recovery of its generation costs under the generation cost adjustment mechanism.

Power rates in the Subic and Clark free ports were steadily lowered in almost two years as the Energy Regulatory Board, a department of Justice agency, found that those agencies could regulate the rates of their respective power providers.

The provision, contained in the Electric Cooperatives Law of 1981, came before the Energy Regulatory Commission was created.

The Luzon Urban Beltway super region clustered together six Central Luzon provinces, Caloocan (Cluster), Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Metro Manila, Marinduque and Mindoro provinces in July last year.

The President said the aim of lowering the cost of electricity was driven from consultations with Philippine exporters.

Amend Epira

To push this goal, Ms Arroyo asked Bataan Rep. Herminia Ramon and Sen. Richard Gordon to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira or Republic act No. 9136) to speed up the privatization of power plants and to facilitate open access and more competition.

She said the proposed amendment to the Epira law would reduce the 70 percent privatization target.

That, she added, was not the aim in the telecommunications industry in which consumers can buy handheld phones and avail themselves of services from anyprovider.

"Privatization is a bit dirty," she said.

The President also tasked Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes with speeding up pronouncements, legislation, and "not wait for 70 percent privatization before our businesses and households begin to enjoy the lower power rates."

Stable supply

This is possible because the power is strong and only 4 percent of Luzon's power comes from oil, according to Ms Arroyo. A network of about five dams supplies hydroelectric power.

But the said supply would be stable in the short years.

"Luzon needs 1,500 megawatts additional power by 2010 but we are very happy that this will be covered by the aforesaid 1,200-megawatt, $2Gs million expansion of the Pagbilao (Quezon) plant by Mirant(s) and Tokyo Electric," she said.

In other areas, she said Quezon first, Rafael Nuñez second) "have the power needs of the whole of Luzon."

Tokyo Electric's investment is part of the $4-billion coal investments that the Japanese business sector has so far put in the Philippines, according to the President.

Rich Pinoys lose millions in new financial scandal

From page A1

immediate apprehension and is now, and I preside, restore, the funds to unlawfully took."

The complainant gave no indication of the amounts involved, but unofficial reports put investments' losses at between $3-40 million and $250 million.

Futures derivatives

The investments scheme involves the trading of sophisticated financial products called 'futures derivatives,' which allow the investor to trade on margin, which magnifies their gains, but also amplifies losses when the market moves against them.

The scheme is similar to the operations of the defunct Manila International Futures Exchange, which was closed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the mid-1990s after receiving numerous complaints from investors.

Lizon is also president of PDC, the listed subsidiary, which holds office at Citibank Towers in Makati, Ms and Ms Tuason are also incorporators of PDC along with Tina Arnaldo and Erlinda Ig.

$40,000 minimum

Investors said Lizon was in the country as late as two weeks ago to meet with investors and clients.

A source said investors were required to put in a minimum of $40,000 each. Those who did not have the minimum amount were asked to come in with partners to come up with the minimum investment block.

The investor is then asked to identify a pair of currencies (i.e. dollar-euro or yen-pound), or any combination) where he or she would like to place the investments.

The company and its assigned traders then deal in those currencies and regularly update the investors of the status of their accounts.

Sometimes, investors also have the option of putting their money in metals like gold. It is not known if investments in metals were affected by Lizon's disappearance.

12-percent return

With an average of 12 percent return per annum, profits are then wired to individual investors' accounts in ABS-Sbons and other banks.

The last received weeks, however, investors failed to get their updates, prompting them to deluge PDC with inquiries.

Early this week, investors were told that Lizon had absconded with their money and that the bank accounts which held their investments had been emptied and closed.

In her complaint letter, Tuason said PDC executed several service agreements with several offshore foreign corporations (OFCs) to provide them with financial research and information and to distribute and disseminate information about the offshore companies.

She said the third parties, which received information about the offshore companies, sometimes ended up investing in them.

No particular, Performance Investments (BVI), would induce persons to place a certain amount of money each month for trading in the foreign exchange market, with the possibility of a profit," Tuason said. "However, there is no guarantee of such profit as foreign exchange trading of this kind also involves risk."

Regular investors

"Because of the reasonable returns that most of the persons were receiving from Performance Investments (BVI), most, if not all employees and or consultants of PDC, became [the] regular investors," Tuason added.

"I am one of those who were induced to invest or participate in the programs of Performance Investments (BVI), the complainant said.

On July 9, however, Tuason reported that PDC was informed by Lizon to stop providing information about the OFCs. This was the last communication she received from Lizon.

She and other PDC employees and consultants, who had invested in Performance Investments, failed to receive their profits after this.

Only $2M recovered

They then tried to contact the Performance Investments (BVI) office in Singapore, which told them that the funds had been returned in three different banks, the last amounting to Hong Kong already closed by Lizon.

So far, only $2 million in investors' funds have been recovered.

"We had by that time already recovered several calls from our acquaintances and friends if we ourselves had received anything as profits due from the said company," Tuason said.

Based on these calls, we believe that the total amount of investments placed in Performance Investments, a lot far, more sizable than the amount I have recalled," she said.

Based on the foregoing, I, Inquirer have with others investors of Performance Investments, have reason to believe that Mr. Lizon unlawfully took the money of Performance Investments to the gross prejudice of us to the amount like myself," she wrote the NBI.

Tuason said that she and other investors would file the appropriate criminal, civil and administrative cases against Lizon to recover their investments.

Erap sued for plunder by last 'Rajah Soliman heir'

From page A1

recovery wants judgment slay on the city's 15-year-old plunder trial involving P4 billion in alleged ill-gotten wealth.

The new complaint centers on the "Reap City" mass housing project sitting on a piece of land in Montalban, Rizal, purportedly owned by the "remaining heir" of native chieftains Rajah Soliman and Lapu Lapu, Prince Juan Tulbano.

Tulbano claims to be the descendant of King Lutong Tagum and the rightful owner of the entire Philippine archipelago which the royal clan purportedly acquired through original Certificate of Title No. 01-4, supposedly the very first title issued in the country in 1766.

Adana had planned to lodge Tulbano's 40-page complaint, which included over 100 pages of annexes, in the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday afternoon but he showed up almost empty-handed claiming his computer had broken down.

The complaint will instead be filed today. Similar suits will also be filed separately against officials, like the Ayalas and Aranetas.

The only documents Adana showed with reporters yesterday was a letter to the Land Registration Authority requesting all copy of deeds nationwide to stop issuing to nonowners Catalina Certificate of Titles OCT No. 01-4.

The letter, dated July 3, 2007, was addressed to LRA administrator Benedicto Ilao.

Adana and Tulbano are charging Estrada with plunder, violation of the anti-graft law and the code of conduct and ethical standards for illegally acquiring a 2,300-hectare parcel of land in Montalban owned by the Tulbano clan.

Toll gate

The controversial "Reap City" which had been touted as the "first ever well-planned social-land housing project" was undercontrol by the Estrada administration to provide shelter to poor residents of Quezon City and Manilaprovince.

"This land belongs to the Tulbano family and this is not only recognized by recent decisions but also by the late President Ferdinand Marcos," Adana told reporters.

"You will be surprised because this is a thing that will explode all over your face ... it will even wreck Philippine history because this country used to be ruled by native kings and the coming down to the occupation of the original ruler of this country" he elaborated.

But Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, who is acting as Estrada's spokesperson, dismissed the case as a "tall tale that will not sell."

"Is it credible to believe that one family owns the more than 7,000 islands in the country?" Rodriguez asked.

Waste of time?

He said the Ombudsman should "not waste its time" on the case, which suspiciously came only after the ouster of Estrada and the "Reap City" was constructed and just when a detailed "not to parcel" to be handed down on Estrada's plunder case, possibly next month.

"My, as a band of politics is the... This is a desperate move of his detractors, whom we are still up not to further cause harassment and oppression against Estrada," Rodriguez said in a separate press conference.

In an effort to "recover" these lands from the government, Tulbano, who owns the Tulbano Noble Estate Corp., had sought judicial remedies from the Pasig and Pasay City courts to claim years ago.

In 2001, a Pasay City court was reported to have handed down a ruling which awarded the Philippine archipelago to Tulbano.

Resistance growing vs Atienza as DENR chief

From page A1

ing nationwide under "Trees for Life"—an event subsumed by both the President and Reyes as the La Mesa Dam fire-park in Quezon City.

Trees for Life is a joint project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Green Army.

"He has just fallen in love with his pals. He's just about to bloom, and now they're sapping [him] to die," she said of Reyes, after Ms Arroyo has named energy secretary to replace the resigned Raphael Lotilla.

Antonio Oposa Jr., chief of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-National Environmental Action Team, assailed the President's practice of dumping the DENR chief nearly every year. He called it "a disservice to the country."

Aksyon-led Atienza was "the last person one would associate with good governance."

"He's not even a political ally and Arroyo's staunch ally and defender. I think he was appointed for something else, and not to keep the environment safe."

Payback

Greenpeace campaign director Von Hernandez said Ms Arroyo's new appointments showed "again how the custody and safekeeping of the national patrimony is being perceived not as payback for political loyalty."

Hernandez and Atienza's appointment was "discouraging" because of his poor track record.

"Our experience with Secretary Atienza's watch, thanks failed to implement the Ecological Waste Management Act and to check the transgression of a new garbage dump in Rizal."

Atienza got his share of the bitchfest, with Hernandez saying that his "unabashed support" for mining betrayed his "sympathetic leaning of powerful corporate interests."

"Its environment secretary, Mr. Reyes love keeping on the need to address climate change. However, without compromise he rounded environmental clearance to the 100-MW coal-fired power plant in Concepcion, Iloilo," Hernandez said.

Coal is the most carbon-intensive and climate-damaging energy fossil fuels.

Hernandez challenged Reyes and Atienza to "reverse environmental trust" and "help save the nation through it, the face of an impending climate catastrophe."

Bel Atienzaza, who worked with Reyes on the Earth Day campaign he chose to add seven Immigrant and Trees for Life, lamented the replacement of "a man who plants trees with someone who doesn't."

"In the short time that we've worked with him, I [realized that] he's the only environment secretary is living memory who went out of his way to reach out to [the NGOs (non-governmental organizations)]," she said.

If at all, Atienza's added, the President should have named a replacement who was "tested and tested" and who has displayed "love and passion" for the environment.

5 in 4 years

Oposa said the appointment of five DENR chiefs—Fidelcruz Alcantara, Mona Pulido, Michael Defensor, Reyes and now Atienza—in just six years amounted to "back-to-the-future local governance."

"It's a bad harbinger. It results in discontinuity of policy and programs. Let me forget, Madame President, preserving the environment is nothing less than preserving the very source of [life—All life giving land, air and all the waters]," Oposa said in a statement.

"It is not good policy to play Russian roulette with the ministries of life of our country. This is seen as appointment of a fall guy to convey a green to the environment by your administration," he said.

Sen. Pia Cayetano also decried the constant changing of leaders. Only in the DENR, which, she said, had corruption-policy problems.

"Only time will tell if President Arroyo had actually consulted with her choice of Lito Atienza as environment secretary," Cayetano said, adding:

"Mr. Atienza's appointment comes at a critical period when the DENR is faced with several pressing issues, like the rampant illegal logging and reforestation, invasion of foreign poachers, and the threat of toxic waste dumping under the Japan Clean Philippines Assurance Partnership Agreement. I do hope [he] will be up to the task and will enforce environment policies."

'No right'

Clemente Bautista, national coordinator of the militant Bayan (Nation) People's Network for the Environment, issued a statement saying Atienza had "no right" to head the DENR.

"While he may be known by his so-called 'beautification' programs, Atienza has neither the training qualifications nor a clean track record of protecting the environment as Manila mayor to hold the crucial post [at the DENR]," Bautista said.

He recalled how Mayor Atienza approved the cutting of centuries-old trees in the Sampaloc Forest Park in 2002 to allow for the construction of an exhaustion office and a parking lot for workers.

"Do we really want such a person as environment secretary?" he said.

Eradicating landmarks

He also noted with concern how the Atienza administration smeared Manila with red gas-mantik plants but failed to rid the city and its surrounding waters of filth and pollution.

"We're afraid that Atienza will show little respect for our national patrimony and resources, to the extent now that he showed in the manner he demolished centuries-old landmarks in Manila such as the art deco Avelino building, the Metropolitan Theater, the YMCA building where 500 City Manila war murals, and the San Lazaro Hippodrome," Bautista said.

The militant labor/left group Pamalakaya said it would oppose Atienza's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

"The appointment of a front

Lim to Atienza: Good luck

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim yesterday said the appointment of his predecessor, Lito Atienza, as environment secretary was "good for him."

"May be involved in cleaning rivers all over the country," Lim said, adding that Atienza's appointment was the prerogative of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and that he wished his predecessor good luck.

Lim refused to comment on the opposition of the environmentalist group Wisdom Foundation to Atienza's appointment.

Winner president Regina Pa-

From page A1

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Joke only? GMA . . .

From page A1

lawyer Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. if the project had been completed or was to still be completed, she added Lobaw, her hometown, or the list of project implementation areas.

"Who knows? I may run for Congress in my hometown," she said, flashing a wide grin beamed on national billboards by the government tourism NBC.

If the President presented her statement to be a joke, few interviewed did not find it funny.

"The joke betrays her intent to stay in power," said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Tragic, not funny

He said the President's statement was more tragic than funny.

"Is this a hint that she will step in power beyond 2010? Even as a joke, there is no room in her becoming a member of the House of Representatives because only a president is immune from prosecution," said Sen. Alan Cayetano.

Despite the administration's repeated denials, Cayetano said he never doubted that Ms Arroyo would step down in 2010.

"That is the reason today she is mocking Congress with her relentless and why she wants Speaker Jose de Venecia replaced because she does not want any compromise," said Cayetano. "But I will never be wrong on what Ms Arroyo's desire running for Congress."

Super region

Mr. Arroyo, who wants a blue downtown Davao, cracked the joke as the resident house here of officials involved in the creation of the Union Urban Bohinay (UUB) super region.

Those in the audience of Cabinet and local officials and private sector leaders gave her a round of applause, the second one she received during her nearly 30-minute speech on the infrastructure projects her administration was undertaking for the UUB.

Ms Mo Roxas-Dee told reporters among the Congress again and instead focused on the projects lined up for UUB.

Miriam: Reyes a sentimental bric-a-brac

From page A1

says that Reyes is simply the wrong, maybe the worst, choice. As an ex-general, he has locked it over the various departments of defense, he has no experience in the environment and he's demonstrably deep grasp of the issues involved in those offices. For him to continue in the Cabinet would be to indulge the incompetent," the senator said in a statement.

Santiago is unfamiliar of retaining her seat in the Senate, being unopposed as re-election by Sen. Francisco Manuel Villar. Santiago expects Villar to retain his Senate post, including as ex-officio Chair, in the 14th Congress.

A barrage of criticism has greeted the President's appointment of her main legal adviser, Reyes and former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who has been named environment secretary. (Story on Page A1.)

The 62-year-old Reyes withdrew support from President Joseph Estrada in the midst of Edsa II in January 2001, forcing Estrada to quit and allowing Ms Arroyo, then the vice president, to take over.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye expressed confidence that both Reyes and Atienza would be able to fully discharge their duties and responsibilities as members of her official family.

Santiago cited Reyes' "culpability in fact" as the DENR that allowed a Korean company to build a tourist spa on Sud Volcano in Tagaytay City as an example of an "incompetent administration" and evidence of "a crime against the environment."

Political football

She also rejected Executive Secretary Ed-uardo Ermita's statement that Reyes "did good" in his previous posts.

"If he was doing good in all those departments, why was he kicked around like a political football? It only means he is incompetent in the Cabinet. Why is it so important to accommodate him? There are dozens of available younger, brilliant civilians with expertise. Reyes is sentimental bric-a-brac who was needed as/since 'because of the turbulence of people power.'

For Santiago, the bottom line is Reyes lacks the background and qualifications for the job, unlike Lotilla whom the senator described as "one of my best students in UP Law."

"If he [Reyes] knows zero about energy. As a lawyer acquainted with energy law, I had to educate myself for three years before I became familiar with this routine industry. I don't recall that Reyes showed as a college professor, or when he has the makings of a policy-maker, a person who knows everything about everything," said Santiago.

While she wanted to "expose" Reyes' incompetence, Santiago said she would not go all Reyes but immediately invoke Section 20 of the Civil Code, which allows one member to recuse only candidates.

"He is unfit and his latest appointment will send the unfortunate message that the person unfit to serve is automatically entitled to Cab-

appointment, industry players, including consumer and militant groups, are also questioning his competence and wondering what he can contribute to the sector.

"Now on his fourth Cabinet posting since 2001, Reyes has been yet to find his place in the arroyo government. What credentials does Reyes have to be appointed as the DOE chief?" said Governor Tayong, national chair of the Sandatang Nagsasagawa ng Aghan sa Enerhiyahan para sa Sambayanan (Sanse).

"We don't expect a significant change in energy policy under Reyes," he added. *With a report from Abigail G. Ho*

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Angat water supply down to critical level

Metro residents need not worry–yet; cloud-seeding mulled

DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Disaster Coordinating Council...also [illegible] Davao Occidental, Davao City, a flat-zone 6.0's highest policy-making body in [illegible] disaster death. Its functions were the National Disaster Control Center, which was [illegible] 1972. The [illegible] was [illegible] 1978 by Presidential Decree No. 1566. Since [illegible] members...almost all department secretaries, and is headed by the secretary of national defense.

SOURCE: Wordbank, Inquirer Research

By TJ Burgonio

THE WATER LEVEL AT ANGAT DAM HAS GONE DOWN TO A critical level, but there is still enough to supply the basic commodity to households in Metro Manila, officials said yesterday.

After weeks of low rainfall in the watershed, the water level, further dipped to 179.20 meters, only below the minimum operating level of 180 m, as of 6 a.m. Thursday.

Despite the drop, the turbines at the Angat hydroelectric plant in Bulacan province continued to generate electricity and send water to households in the metropolis.

"There's little reduction in the water supply, but this has little effect. But now, there's no reason to worry since the water supply," engineer Joyce Roque of National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said in an interview.

The dam supplies 97 percent of the needs of an estimated four million residents in the metropolis, and some of the irrigation requirements of farms in Central Luzon.

The water level usually goes down as usual this time of the year. The NWRB expects it go back to the normal level once there's some hit the watershed between August and September.

While waiting for the rainfall, officials from the Napocor, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems, National Irrigation Administration and the Bureau of Soil and Water Management have agreed to conduct cloud-seeding in the area. "But we have not yet on the schedule yet. It all depends on the presence of available clouds," Roque said.

The NWRB has decided to lower the maximizing water level at Ipo Dam by 10 cm from 101.1 m to optimize as well as regulate the use of the water supply, Roque added.

Nyan Angel Dizon, the water level in Ipo Dam and shares the reservoir, also believe a reduction in the MWSS distribution system.

"The best option for the public is to conserve water, and let the farmers to resort to diversified cropping," Roque said.

In case of low water level in Angat Dam, the irrigation requirements for 29,500 farmers of thirteen farmlands and the water supply for residents in the metropolis can get affected, she said.

"In the NIA has not reported robot problems of the farmlands would be affected by the low water level in the area," she added. The drop in the water level has been blamed on the low volume of rainfall in the area.

Typhoon "Helenq" entered the Philippine area of responsibility more than a week ago, but veered away from the island. Later.

"Helenq did not contribute enough rain to add to the water supply," Roque said.

ADORABLE Santino is the newest addition to the Santiago family. Friend of the show his couple said the boy has the features of both of his parents.

Baby boy advance birthday gift for Claudine, Raymart Santiago

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY GIFT IS HOW actor Raymart Santiago describes the birth of his son.

His wife, fellow actor Claudine Barretto, gave birth yesterday, a day before the couple's birthday, to 6.9-pound Santino Santiago.

Santiago said the bayonet they originally planned to induce the delivery on July 29 "so that Claudine, my son and I would share the same birthday."

But, at 12:20 a.m. yesterday, Barretto's "water bag ruptured," Santiago said."I immediately brought her to Medical City in Mandaluyong," he said.

"Our doctor, Dr. Greg Bautista, arrived at 2:30 a.m.," Santiago added. "Things happened quickly. There were no hassles. Claudine didn't have a hard time."

At exactly 7:44 a.m., Baby Santino was born.

The mom was doing fine, his father said. "She was brave. She's happy that she had a normal delivery," he added.Santiago added.

The actor said their Lamaze classes were helpful. "We learned a lot from our breathing classes," he said. "Claudine also read lots of baby books like 'What to Expect when You're Expecting.'"

Welcome

Apart from attending breathing classes, Santiago helped build their son's crib and a wooden cabinet. "My friend, interior designer Aji Puglisi Jamon, helped me put the room together. I transformed the guest room into a nursery," he said.

The couple also prepared their adopted daughter, 5-year-old Sabina Miranda, for the coming of Santino.

Friends and relatives greeted Baby Rodrigo Santiago "in consideration of his parents," said the proud dad. "He's fair skinned. Sometimes he looks like me. Sometimes he looks like Claudine. He's so cute!"

2 arrested for holdup try in Caloocan

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO MEN SUSPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN holdup incidents in various cities of Metro Manila were arrested while allegedly attempting to rob a cooperative project officer in Caloocan City yesterday afternoon.

According to Supt. Rafael Santiago, head of the Northern Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division, Dewy Dumas, 20, worker and another suspect, Jun Abel held up Manuel Ledesma of Kooperatibo ng Pamamahayag Bansa sa Kino along 12 Blk 6 St., in Progreso Village, Barangay 134, Caloocan City.

Santiago said resident who witnessed the robbery helped the victim subdue the suspects and confronted a witness's arrest.

The victim was on board his motorcycle, when he was attacked by the suspects who demanded that he give up his bag's pack containing his collection money at gun point.

Instead of handing over his bag with P122,000 in it, the victim fought off his attackers.

Santiago said the suspects were identified by other victims as those allegedly responsible for a series of robbery incidents in different areas in the northern part of Manila.

Bomb threat in QC school; no classes

By Nancy C. Carvajal

CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED IN A SCHOOL along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City yesterday morning following a bomb threat relayed through its telephone operator.

According to SPO2 Rhoda Lacuna, a member of the Quezon City bomb squad, classes at the Bilkreis Preparatory School were abruptly cut by school officials at around noon due to the bomb threat.

He said a male caller who did not identify himself, talked about a bomb that had been planted in the school that would explode any time. The call he said, was received by the school's telephone operator, Mary Jean Perez at around 11:53 a.m., when the message entered area already in the dismissal.

But no suspicious of object had been found in the school building.

Lacuna said the bomb threat and classes of the yielded negative results. "All bomb threats, however, are taken seriously as we told everybody to immediately vacate the area , Lacuna said.

As an added precautionary measure, the students were told to leave their school bags behind. "We wanted to be sure that no explosives were placed inside any of the bags," the police officer said.

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Pakistani seeks to collect $2.5M from PCU

By Alison W. Lopez

A PAKISTANI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR is asking the Manila Regional Trial Court to order the Philippine Christian University (PCU) and its former president to pay him $2.5M (about P113.6M) in damages.

Retired Col. Ayub Ali Khan, chair and proprietor of the National Institute of Business Administration (Nibm), asked the court to enforce the judgment of a Pakistani civil court.

Rana Shol yesterday, through his local counsel, a civil case for the "recognition and/or enforcement of a foreign judgment."

The petitioner was referring to a September 2005 decision by civil judge Arshad Hussain of the Fire Chat Lahore court to Pakistan holding PCU and its former president Dr. Carlito Pano liable for damages amounting to $2,167,376. Rana filed a complaint in 1999 against the school and its head for breaking a memorandum of agreement entered into by the two parties in October 1993.

Under the agreement, PCU would offer academic programs in Nibm campuses.

PCU's board of trustees creation of representatives of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). Rana said that "in spite of financial and other difficulties," he kept his end of the bargain by establishing a new campus in Peshawar. He also "paid certain amounts" to Pano. But on Dec. 20, 1996, PCU acting president Dr. Betty Molina terminated the MOA.

Rana said the agreement was terminated without six months prior notice. He added that Molina, as acting president, had no right to terminate it. The civil case dismissed Rana suffered mental agony and financial loss as a result of the termination of the MOA.

In the complaint he filed with the Labor court, Rana asked for $1.0.0M in damages and payment for separate Judge Ocampo reduced it to $2,167,376 because "the loss of business, reputation and mental torture and humiliation" should not be quantified separately.

The amount awarded by the court also covered "refund of fees to students, funds misled out by defections, and expenses incurred in visits to defendant in the Philippines."

The respondents did not appeal the ruling prompting Rana Sept. 2, 2005, to move that the judgment final an entered Binding."

The decision tried to reach Soares, but his executive assistant, Vicki Guevara, said he was out of town and he would be back Monday. He also could not be contacted through his cellphone.

Court issues TRO stopping work on Intramuros project

By Alison W. Lopez

A MANILA REGIONAL TRIAL COURT HAS issued a temporary restraining order on the P920M Intramuros sports complex project of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

The TRO was handed down by Judge Antonio Bautista of Branch 32 on July 17, eight months after construction began on the golf driving range of the Intramuros Golf Club.

Besides directed PTA General Manager Robert Uran Barbers and project contractor M. Bosque Corporation to "cease and desist" from continuing the project.

The Intramuros Administration (IA) board of directors, composed by its chair, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, filed the case for Prohibition with prayer for TRO and Writ of Preliminary Injunction against Barbers and M. Bosque Corporation.

The court said Barbers had violated the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1616, as amended, and its implementing rules that prohibit any form of construction or repair in Intramuros without a development permit from the IA. The decree declares the entire Intramuros area as a major historical landmark.

Barbers was also found by the court to have violated provisions of the memorandum of agreement entered into by the IA and the PTA, as well as some PTA policies.

Though it was being built outside the area of Intramuros, the proposed stadium encountered opposition because it was "dangerously" near the historic walls.

Barbers said in past interviews that the "destruction of a heritage site, especially the walls of Intramuros, is farthest from our minds." The upgrading of facilities at the Golf Club, he added, had a potential to attract tourists.

AGUILAR REMEMBERED
Liz Pilar Rep. Cynthia Villar inaugurates the Students Records Office of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in honor of her father, Dr. Filomen Aguilar. From left are: UP Chancellor Ramon Arcadio, Liz Pilar, Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Representative Villar, UP president Emerlinda Roman, UPCM dean Dr. Albert Roxas and PGH director Carmelo Arbon.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
ANNOUNCEMENT
Filing of application as a voter for the **Barangay Elections** is OPEN to all Filipino citizens at least eighteen (18) years old on or before October 23, 2007.
Filing of application starts July 15-22, 2007 at the Office of the Election Officer in cities/municipalities from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Education and Information Department
525-8294 * 525-8091 * 527-9871 * 527-9574

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
ANNOUNCEMENT
Filing of application as a member of the **Kalipunan ng Kabataan** is OPEN to all Filipino citizens at least fifteen (15) but below eighteen (18) years old on or before October 23, 2007.
Filing of application starts July 15-22, 2007 at the Office of the Election Officer in cities/ municipalities from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Education and Information Department
525-8294 * 525-8091 * 527-9871 * 527-9574

National Power Corporation
July 19, 2007
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
LEASE OF 1 x 600 MEGAWATT GENERATING SETS FOR MALAMPAYA DIESEL POWER PLANT SPUG
AT PALAWAN (MARIVELES, BATAAN AND BALANGA)
(IMSP-PETROPHIL)
The National Power Corporation (NPC) wishes all interested Legazpi Contractors to submit bid for Lease of 1 x 600 Megawatt Diesel Generating Sets for Malampaya Diesel Power Plant SPUG at Mariveles, Bataan Province, Philippines. The source of funds for the Lease Contract is the Bid Bond Loan from the Philippine Crude Development (PCDC-IMSP).
The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of, but not limited to, installation, test and commissioning of 1 x 600 Megawatt (aggregate capacity) diesel generating sets complete with auxiliaries and accessories and fuel storage tanks (good for seven (7) days operation) complete at the existing Diesel plant Site. The generating sets shall be commissioned and operated by the successful bidder for a period not less than one (1) calendar year, extendible from NPC's discretion (if desired).
Foreign bidder shall submit a certification from the foreign bidder's country of origin that he will be in compliance upon award of contract with the laws of the Philippines.
The complete set of tender documents are available for inspection at the Main and Contract Services Department (MCSD), Ground Floor, NPC Building, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104 and also available for SALE (NON-REFUNDABLE) upon presentation of Letter of Intent.
The bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number - IMSP(PETROPHIL)	
LEASE/SUBLEASE OF 1 x 600 MEGAWATT DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE CONTRACT VOLUME 600 MW	
Issuance of Bidding Docs	July 20, 2007 at the MCSD Ground Floor, NPC Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference	August 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at Panagbenga Room, NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Commissioned Operation of Sets	August 14, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at Panagbenga Room, NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Opening of Proposals	July 23, 2007
Lease of Equipment/Awarding of Contract	1st 10 days after Opening of Proposals

Submission of eligibility, technical and price proposals will be turned on completion. Interested bidders are enjoined to the opening procedures. Envelopes to be submitted shall be sealed and shall contain the following: Envelope 1 - Eligibility Proposal (Envelope shall be clearly marked with PROSPECT and contain the corresponding Certificate of Registration).
NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
Atty. JOSE ANTONIO A. SUAREZ
Vice President and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Las Piñas garment factory reopens

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE LAS PIÑAS GARMENT factory that partially collapsed last week was allowed to reopen after its owners promised to provide improved emergency exits and a better working environment for its employees.

The Las Piñas city government lifted yesterday its cease-and-desist order to enable the workers of Forerunner Garments to return to work.

In a letter to Mayor Virgel Aguilar, factory manager William Ng promised to widen the alleys leading to the company to facilitate evacuation during emergencies.

"We will also add six exhaust fans for good ventilation," Ng said in his July 13 letter.

City engineer Rosabella Ruiseng said Forerunner Garments began the improvements last weekend.

The owners also said they would construct new fire partially collapsed section again.

Part of the jacket factory collapsed on the afternoon of July 17, causing injuries to some workers, mostly seamstresses.

Nine employees were treated and confined for minor injuries at the Las Piñas City Medical Center.

Although Forerunner Garments had a building permit, the collapsed portion was not in the original construction plan.

Ruiseng said the company promised to make repairs in the undamaged areas, adding that the owners could face fines and even prohibition if a worker died as a result of the incident.

"The workers sustained only minor injuries, and the management already paid for their medical expenses," she said.

The management have signed the fine of around P118,000 for the illegal structures.

Following the incident, the city engineer's office began a series of visits to factories and businesses establishments in the city.

The inspection orders are expected to take at least two weeks more.

The city engineer's office, however, has yet to complete the inspection of the Forerunner Garments compound.

The compound on 168 Marcos Alvarez Avenue, Talon Uno has nine factories.

Many other factories are located on the same street.

Ruiseng said those of the six buildings in the compound were being rented by Forerunner Garments. The other three are occupied by Diversified Garments and Dekmeister Garments.

"Dekmeister was able to produce a business permit but Diversified, as of the moment, has not yet shown any inspectors a permit," the city engineer told The Inquirer.

She added that they had not come across a building with as illegally constructed extension like Forerunner Garments'.

All factories will be required to submit a report to the city engineer's office detailing violations of the Building Code, if any, and possible remedies.

MetroBriefs

3 hurt in robbery

THREE Indian nationals aboard a moving car were shot in Pasay City yesterday as they were driving away from a bank along Gen. Ed Payot Avenue in Makati City. The car was then a few hundred meters away from the Equitable PCI Bank on Chino St. corner Gen. Ed Payot. Investigators said the suspects, driving a motorcycle, pursued the victims at around 3 p.m. yesterday. Driver Rajender Kumar, 36, passengers Sushil Chohan, 34, and Rajni Chohan, 32, former gunshot wounds in the arms and legs and were rushed to the Manila Adventist Medical Center. Kumar, Sushil Chohan was able to escape unscathed from the shooting incident. Initial investigation showed that the Indian nationals had just come from the bank and were near Borongan St. in Pasay City when the three unidentified suspects attacked them. Case investigator SPO1 Calixto Jimenez said the suspects were able to take a bag containing P8,000 in cash from the victims.

Jodee R. Acerdo

Mayor's pledge

SET to run for re-election for the third time, Mayor Jejomar Binay, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday pledged that he would not use the organization as a vehicle for the administration's Charter change agenda. Abalos told reporters yesterday that as far as he is concerned, the Charter change agenda has been "long been done." The election for the new set of officials of the organization will be held on Aug. 4 and not in Pasay City on Sunday. Abalos, as Commissioner on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, a close administration ally, said he would rather not have any campaigning by organizations, regardless of the political colors and affiliations of its heads.

Kristine L. Alave

Campaign vs 'settlers'

CALOOCAN Mayor Enrico Echiverri yesterday ordered city officials to implement more stringent measures to counter the presence of informal settlers' syndicates. Echiverri issued the order after the Inquirer reported exposés that these syndicates had established nightmarish informal settlers' areas in the city. The mayor added that he had directed the Urban Poor Affairs Office (UPAO) to conduct an information campaign to discourage or monitor the legitimate home buyers in informal settlers. "We have to ensure that legitimate recipients of the city socialized housing program will not be victimized by unscrupulous individuals who are only interested in selling their properties to get a clearance from the office before applying for a new location," Echiverri said. He added that a steady increase in the city's population had been noted due to the influx of migrants from other provinces. The Diocese of Davao groups had already linked up with legitimate informal settlers' associations' right to housing via the local government's housing program, Echiverri said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Metro police sets up 'super' task force for Sona on Monday

By Julie M. Aurelio

A "SUPER TASK FORCE" WAS created by the Metro Manila police for the President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday at the House of Representatives in Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

National Capital Region Police Office Regional Director Reynaldo Varilla ordered the activation of Task Force Kapayapaan (STF Kapayapaan) that will be in charge of overall security and traffic management for the Sona. Varilla said he would personally direct and supervise the task force made up of policemen from Metro Manila's five districts.

STF Kapayapaan will have five component task forces: Task Force Sona, Task Force Crimsafe, Task Force Safety Chief's (Intelligence) and Task Force Reserves.

Varilla said around 3,000 other officers would augment the 5,000 NCRPO personnel during the Sona.

The officers will come from the Police Regional Offices, Special Action Force, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail and Penology, Metro Manila Development Authority's Traffic Operations Center, and National Capital Region Command.

The STF Kapayapaan underwent training yesterday and completed its a SWAT (special weapons and tactics) and civil disturbance management (CDM) competitions to prepare them for security-related problems.

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Marikina dog owners advised to register pets for antirabies drive

By Kristine L. Alave

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF Marikina, through the City Veterinary Services Office (CVSO), will launch a registration program for dog owners in the barangays starting August as part of the city's efforts to control rabies and promote responsible pet ownership.

In a statement, the city government said the project aims to make the city safer for residents and pets.

The city's dog registration project will run for three months. Dog owners who want to participate in the project are advised to bring a photo of their dogs (preferably whole body and side view), one-piece 1x1 photo of the owners, registration fee of P75, (for neutered) old dog tag and previous registration papers. Dogs will be given antirabies shots.

Those whose dogs have already been vaccinated are required to present a certificate of vaccination to the city's veterinary office. As stipulated in City Ordinance No. 67, series of 2003, failure to register dogs will cost the owner P1,000. Nonvaccination of dogs, on the other hand, carries a penalty P5,000 fine.

In a related development, the city council of Marikina had passed an ordinance called the "Marikina Veterinary Code of 2007," which mandates the care, control, and custody of animals including regulations for the distribution of livestock, poultry and aquatic products for consumers consumption in the city.

Under the ordinance, the CVSO will oversee and manage the operations of slaughterhouses and animal products. In addition to processing the preparation and sale of meat products. It also requires businesses engaged in selling meat products to get a clearance from the office before applying for a new business license. After the application is filed, the products will be subjected to ante-mortem inspection.

The CVSO will also oversee the control and management of rabies through field patrols and enforcing national quarantine directives.

2 new suicide bombings kill 29 in uneasy Pakistan

SITE of a suicide blast at Shah district, some 25 km from Karachi, where at least 24 Pakistanis were killed on July 19. AFP

ISLAMABAD—TWO SUICIDE bombings, one of them targeting Ramadan workers, killed at least 29 people in Pakistan on Thursday, fuelling a mounting sense of chaos in the South Asian nation.

Author Ron Suresh Ayres quoted Ayres as saying that the Islamic group Abu Sayyaf had been behind the attack.

Another blast near Ayres' home in the Philippines' southern city of Davao killed at least 10 people and injured more than 30 others.

Ayres said the Abu Sayyaf group had been behind the attack.

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The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Dumlao

PANIC-STRICKEN carry the body of one of the victims of the Airbus3 Tam Airlines plane. AP

Outrage over Brazil air crash

All 186 aboard plane believed dead along with some on the ground

SAO PAULO—RESCUERS ON THURSDAY PULLED charred bodies from the burned out wreckage of Brazil's deadliest air disaster, amid angry accusations that airport safety concerns had been ignored.

All 186 passengers and crew aboard the Airbus 320 were believed to have died in Tuesday's crash at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport, along with a number of people on the ground.

The Tam Airlines flight had careened off the slick runway upon landing in driving rain, skidded across a crowded avenue and slammed into a warehouse where it exploded in a fireball.

It was "a tragedy waiting to happen," said Cezar Britto, president of The Order of Lawyers of Brazil, echoing opposition and national media criticism of precarious conditions at the airport.

"What exploded in Congonhas was not just the Tam airbus and almost 200 victims but the credibility of the Brazilian aviation system," Britto said.

Congonhas is notorious for a runway some officials consider too short and which pilots say becomes slick when wet.

"The runway was as slippery as soap," an unnamed pilot told the O Globo daily, adding that authorities should not have allowed the plane to land at in such conditions.

By the early morning hours of Wednesday, rescuers said they had pulled 181 bodies from the twisted metal of the plane and surrounding warehouse rubble. Three of the bodies were found inside the Tam Express building that was struck by the plane.

One of the aircraft's black boxes was recovered.

Five people were still listed as missing and eleven people were in hospital with injuries, four of them in a critical state, their security said.

"There is no sign of survivors," Tam Personal Mario Antonio Rodrigues said at a news conference.

There have been a number of incidents of planes skidding off the runway at the airport, including one the day before Tuesday's crash.

The main runway had been resurfaced last month, but more work was scheduled for September to build grooves into the surface to allow for better water drainage.

"Control tower operations had ordered the runway should be closed because it didn't have grooving, but no one in the governmental wanted to hear about it," said Sergio Oliveira, who heads the Federation of Air Controllers.

The Justice Ministry said it had ordered an investigation to establish whether the pilots were reckless and kept security standards. AFP

Democrats fail in bid to force Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON—AFTER SENATE Republicans yet again thwarted a proposal to withdraw US troops from Iraq, Democrat Jeff Merkley on Wednesday abruptly halted consideration of a major Pentagon policy measure, heading off the introduction of competing Iraq plans.

The Democrats' decision, coming after an all-night session and after more than a week of intensive debate in the Senate, meant that President George W. Bush had essentially won the added time he said he needed to demonstrate his troop-buildup was succeeding.

The move appeared to postpone the next major showdown between the two until September, despite a White House report that claimed no more than mixed progress in Iraq. It also allowed Democratic leaders to avoid votes on alternative initiatives that the public was led might to portray as evidence that they were seeking a change in Iraq as well.

Though four Republicans joined 49 Democrats and an independent in backing the beginning of a troop withdrawal in 120 days, Bush was able to hold on to nearly all Republicans in the broader dispute despite public expressions of dissatisfaction with the way he served.

The Democrats fell eight votes short of the 60 needed to overcome a filibuster. They said the outcome showed that Republicans were preventing a majority of the Senate from trying to force Bush to begin winding down combat operations in Iraq, and pledged to use an August recess to keep pressuring Republicans.

"Our colleagues in the Senate are going to have a chance to go home, explain their votes and vote again," said Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the second-ranking Senate Democrat. "And eventually, I am confident, they'll vote us to changing the direction in Iraq."

The Democratic move angered Republicans who had hoped to get a chance to push their approaches. WP

POLICE, firefighters and Con Edison workers respond to the scene of an underground steam pipe explosion on July 18 in Manhattan. AP

Steam pipe blast spurs panic in 9/11-jittery NY

NEW YORK—A STEAM PIPELINE exploded in Manhattan on Wednesday in a shower of hot vapor, mud and rock, sparking panic among revamp-inch from construction and rekindling memories of the Sept. 11 attacks among jittery New Yorkers.

One person died of a cardiac arrest while around 20 civilians were injured, some of them severely. Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters. There or four firefighters were treated for minor injuries at the scene.

"There is no reason to believe whatsoever that this is anything other than a failure of our infrastructure," Bloomberg said, dismissing any possibility of a terrorist link to the blast in one of New York's busiest business districts.

He said that a 90-centimeter steam pipe installed in 1924 and used in the heating and cooling systems of office buildings in the area had burst, possibly due to rain water from a nor'easter-like storm that swept into the region.

The explosion, which left a crater in the middle of the street, sent clouds of steam, mud and rocks several stories into the air and left buildings in the area without heat or electricity. Power could be heard several blocks away.

Although police were quick to say there was nothing to indicate the explosion were related to the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001.

"Obviously everybody thinks immediately of 9/11," said Hector Thomas, 63, who was on the 27th floor of a building overlooking the site of the underground explosion at Lexington Avenue and 41st street at the time of the blast. AFP

Japan's scandal-hit fund manager draws 2 years

TOKYO—MINORU FUJI MASAYUKI Nishikawa, a self-professed corporate raider and chairman of investor rights, was jailed for two years and given a record fine Thursday for insider trading.

The harsh penalty reflects a crackdown in Japan on the more free-wheeling, Western style of capitalism pioneered by Murakami and another million-yen, Takafumi Horie, founder of the disgraced Internet firm Livedoor.

The Tokyo District Court sentenced penalties totaling about 1.15 billion yen ($9.4 million) on Murakami, a 47-year-old former Trade ministry bureaucrat turned activist investor who led Japan's first hostile takeover bid.

He was also fined another 300 million yen.

The case "hurts the credibility of the securities market tremendously," Judge Jinshiro Iwata said.

The crime had "a great impact on society, as ordinary investors who believed in the market and on those who invested in the Murakami fund as they believed in the claim the accused relied about," Iwata added.

Both Murakami and the fund appealed the verdict, which the fund manager said the lawyers dismissed as an "an unfair ruling." "We would like to seek appropriate judgment by filing an appeal," they said in a statement. AFP

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ADVANTAGE?: Lee Cumiday and Reinaldo Garriga dispute the rebound with UST's Jerry Cuca and Dylan Ababou

Archers trim hard-fighting Tamaraws; Tigers prevail

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST WHEN LA SALLE BEATS HITS dreamy, in-state Ben Mbandwabe to the richest status.

As coach Franz Pumaren predicted, the Archers went through a "real test" against the Eastern University Select Mamboks-bound mo'el, a fable Lion 20 points for a 64-61 escape in the Unofficial meets basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Stadium stadium.

"It was a good test for the guys," said Pumaren. "Down the line, we were able to build my composure and pull through despite a hard-nosed."

Dallas in three less-than-set minutes, the set has played exactly as most of the game and were trailed, 21-22, early in the second period.

"I have to say it for the boys on missions the game overwhelmed," said Pumaren after the Archers joined the elite Dawsonites of the four Warriors sweep at 6-6.

Unlike University of Santo Tomas-knocked-down-the-big-men-in-rebound-area-only 9-96-94-win-over-adventure.

The defending champion Tigers may have been knocked in the semi-loop, but for coach Pido Jarencio, the huge performances of Jerry Cuca, Dennis Ababou and Dylan Ababou stayed many doubts of their title-defense bid.

The Tigers came back from a shaky first quarter with Ababou firing 15 points from beyond the arc to the first half to finish with a team-high 26 points.

Cuca added another monster game of 24 points and 12 defensive boards.

UST and FEU are tied at 2-2, while Adamson dropped to 0-3.

Mbandwabe wound on a crucial put-back with 1:51 minutes to go that pushed the Archers ahead of 76-74.

Edward Barcenal sealed a triple with 30.4 seconds left that dazed the Archers to 4 digit, 42-43, but Chris Millanes to seal over hollow shooters with 0.3 ticks left.

The Tamaraws tried to forge miracles but their two three-point attempts in the last seconds were off mark.

The scores:

Final Game:

UST (64)—Mbandwabe 16, Cuca 24, Ababou 26, Garriga 10, Cumiday 12, Ababou 2, Barcenal 4, Millanes 2, Ababou 2, Cuca 2, Cumiday 2, Garriga 2, Ababou 2, Cuca 2, Cumiday 2, Garriga 2, Ababou 2, Cuca 2, Cumiday 2, Garriga

Jungolfers on target for 3

Dela Paz, Legaspi ahead; Ardina gains share of 2nd

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—RAMREE DELA PAZ AND MA. LEGASPI SHARE THE solo lead in their respective divisions while Sarita Ardina boasted back into contention on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) as the Philippines boosted its drive for a repeat of last year's three titles in the Callaway Junior World Championships in various courses here.

Playing in the final flight, Dela Paz came through with a brilliant birdie-par eagle finish for a second straight two-under par 71 and edged the field back to the girls' 13-15 division with a 144 total at Torrey Pines.

Japanese Hikaku Morita stood second at 146, after a 68, even as Cora Rodriguez, who was tied with Bamber along with the others for the first round lead Tuesday, slumped to 11 shots at 151.

Rodriguez was into a triple bogey-double bogey fashion on the ninth and seventh holes and fell to 13th.

Legaspi fished up her 6th-extention hol in the girls' 7-8 class as the daughter of the co-host of staff of former President Fidel Ramos scored a three-under 34 for a 36-hole aggregate of 117 at the Bee Glen course of the Iverson Resort.

She was ahead by two strokes over Angel Tiangi'En of the United States.

After struggling with a 73, Ardina threw herself into the mix with the day's best round of two under par 70 at Aviara to finish 12th and tied for second place at 142.

But Ardina still had a lot of ground to cover with Hawaii Tours of Inspiration mayflag-toting Filipino four strokes with a 71-139.

Princess Espeut jumped to third in the girls' 11-12 although she was seven adrift. Bamber-Division flag was also in third spot in the girls' 9-under-par 12 duels behind the Mexican Americanist while double Hawaii-bound Isaiah to fifth, 1-9 shots off the lead, in the girls' 11-12 group.

But the Filipino boss from the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines delegation which is supported here by PAL, PCSO, Hercules Callaway, Iverson Golf and Intel Homebound, with former champion Nelson Legaspi crashing out in the heat" 13-14 girls.

Marisol Pinto (13-14) and Bino Ardo (No. (11-12) were tied for 11th.

Legaspi proved to be the biggest casualty for the Filipinos after he teamed to an 82 and failed to make it to the final round series. Fillone other 80 fare ruined the cut.

Jungolf chair and founder Amelia Mendiola said her best wishes to the lads: "We're hoping for the best tomorrow. We'll be crossing for the all-base to the morning so we can make this another repeat."

DELA PAZ: Birdie-par-eagle finish

Newman's US race team taps Michele

By Jasmine W Payo

HER CAREER JUST shifted into high gear.

In a major career move, homegrown F1 spins interview driver Michele Romguerra has joined the SM. Racing Newman-Wolfe, becoming the first Filipino to sign up with a major race team in the United States.

"It feels really good. I'm surprised as far as the position," said Romguerra. "I didn't think it will come this quick. All our hard work paid off."

SM. Racing is a North Carolina-based team owned by MR. Intl. of former Gale Gayoso and former Bond champion RVP Ney Lewis to partner ship with veteran actor and racing enthusiast Raul Newman and Eddie Wolfe.

The team picked Romguerra among several applicants after the three-time Asian karting champion aced the last, road car and formula car tests in the recent Sandstone Drivers Shootout in Phoenix, Las Vegas and California.

"I was really, really nervous in the tests," Romguerra said during a press conference yesterday at City Hall in Pasbaguio. "I had to impress the team owners."

The 17-year-old Romguerra will start training with her new team late this month for the next open-wheel Formula Series / Champ Car season from April to August 2008.

"Everything we'll do in 2007 is to get ready for the 2008 season," said Cav Romguerra, Michele's father and personal mentor. "They have a lot of plans for her in the next three to five years to take on the top level of motorsports."

The Champ Car Atlantic series offers prize the way for rivals in the elite Champ Car World Series as the lady-karting league.

"This is where I want to be," said Romguerra. "Forgetting close to my dream. This doesn't end. It happen to anyone at any age."

Vertek man to beat in 42K Milo qualifier

DEFENDING CHAMPION EDGARDO "EDDIE" Barrameda looms as the prohibitive favorite when the 21st National Milo Marathon holds its second qualifier opportunity race on Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Barrameda, who finished last year's full distance 42K qualifying in two hours, 33 minutes and 3 seconds, failed to compete in the year-end grand finale however, as he was preparing for the Doha Asian Games.

With his stint in the Thailand SEA Games this December still in question, he is setting his eyes on a second Milo national title.

Barrameda won his 16th Milo crown in 2006. And he did it in record fashion with a time of 2:32:21, the fastest way bettors in 2006 by Commission Island at 2:33:33.

Barrameda and Isabel have been supported by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (PATAF) for running in an unsanctioned race last May.

Isabel has already qualified in the men's finals after topping the women's inaugural stage in Batangas City last January.

The qualifying time for the 10K leg is 4 hours for the men and 4:30 for the women.

Aside from the centerpiece 42K run which will be flagged off at 4:30 a.m. at the Quirino Grandstand, the Hand Homerunner, men will also be held in the 10K, 5K and 2K distances.

The top 10 finishers will win cash prizes, trophies and medals, said Milo AVP for Sports Pit Cuz-ong.

All participants of the 42K run are advised to be at the assembly area on Roxas Blvd. at the Luneta not later than 4 a.m.

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Illam teams bound for LL World Series

TIGER Woods studies his position on the second green during the first round of the 136th British Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie, Scotland. AFP

Tiger gets bid going

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Choi surges ahead in wet British Open

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland—Tiger Woods wanted no time getting into the thick of the battle at the top of the leaderboard as he challenged for a third British Open title starting on Thursday.

The world number one was shortly placed one-off the pace of two-time winner Ernie Els after carding a 3-under par four start of 33 at sodden Carnoustie following an eight-three at the 7178-yard track.

A perfectly judged approach after a drive which carried over 310 yards left him with a 12-foot putt which he gobbled into the centre of the cup.

Woods, 31, had opened his birdie account at the third with an eight-footer and he rounded off his outward half by converting another from a yard further away.

His only blemish was a bogey at the short eighth where a skewed tee shot sent his ball into a greenside bunker and he failed to get up-and-down from 14 feet.

The Masters champion is seeking to become the first man since Australian Peter Thomson 51 years ago to win three times in succession.

Early pace

The early pace was set by fourth favourite Ki Choi who overturned four finishes into his opening six holes, dropped a shot at the eleventh but soon found his four under at the short 13th having reached the hall in two feet.

Choi was joined at the head of the leaderboard by twice US Open champion Retief Goosen who displayed typical control with a series of pinpoint approaches to give himself short birdie putts at the 12th and 13th.

KJ CHOI: Solitary

Alongside Woods in joint third were Michael Campbell, the 2005 US Open champion, and Irish Ryder Cup player Paul McGinley.

Woods's playing partners Justin Rose of Britain, 2000 US PGA champion Bob Estes and US Ryder Cup hero Stewart Cink and Scott Verplank were among a clutch on a further back.

Conditions on the east Scotland links were gradually improving by late morning as early morning drizzle and mist gave way to dry but chilly weather under leaden skies.

US journeyman Joe Ozaki had the honour of the first shot as the 8h0 local time (8:30 AM ET).

He took a five-wood for safety and negotiated it in par four but ended up carding a six over 77, rounding Ian Baker-Finch and a double in the 156h.

Reuters

Doping case bugs tour; French wins

VIEILLER

While the media took two weeks to come to light, Sinkewitz and four teammates were tested June 8 during training ride in the Pyrenees mountains... when the race heads next week.

"It's not possible. I have nothing about it," Sinkewitz told the German news agency DPA. "I am about to have surgery. I can't deal with it now."

T-Mobile and Sinkewitz was undergoing surgery on his jaw at a Hamburg, Germany clinic, a consequence of Sunday's crash.

The revelation was a blow for T-Mobile, which has enacted some of the toughest anti-doping measures in the sport in response to doping controversies. Jan Ullrich, a former team leader who won the Tour in 1997, retired this year after he was mentioned in the Spanish anti-doping probe known as Operation Puerto.

The team has been trying to rebuild among young riders. Sinkewitz is 28.

T-Mobile temporarily suspended Sinkewitz. AP

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Peso hits new high on IPO inflows

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With peso up, gov't saves P20B in 1st half

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SAVED P20.2 billion in the first half of the year due to the strengthening of the peso, which allowed it to pay less interest on its maturing obligations.

Data from the Department of Finance (DOF) showed that the period interest spent P129.6 billion in January to June to pay for interest on loans—lower than the expected P149.9 billion.

The liabilities of the government consist of those incurred through the issuance of government securities here and abroad, and availment of official development assistance extended by foreign lenders.

The government spends a substantial amount of its annual budget to pay off interest on maturing liabilities. For the entire year, the government has programmed P518 billion for interest payments. This represents 20 percent of the P1.126-trillion national budget for 2007.

Finance officials said the lower than programmed payments for interest on liabilities was attributed largely to the strengthening of the peso. The peso appreciation helped trim the amount of foreign currency denominated debts or loan maturity terms.

The government's budget program for the year, which showed that it could spend P1.45.9 billion for interest payments in the first half, was based on the assumption that the peso would average only between 48 and 50 per dollar.

But because of huge dollar inflows, the peso has been hitting record highs, even breaking into the 46-to-a-dollar territory since the start of 2007. Again, the peso yesterday hit a seven year-high, closing at 45.31.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said the rising dollar inflows resulting in the appreciation of the peso was due to an increase in aggregate income of overseas Filipino workers, who remit their earnings to their families in the country.

A WOMAN counts P100 bills at a money shop in Manila. Families of workers abroad now receive exchange their dollars for pesos as soon as they can, creating a momentum that is expected to push the local currency even higher. AFP

Currency marked 7-year high, closing at P45:$1

By Dixie L. Lucas

THE PESO ROSE TO A NEW SEVEN-YEAR HIGH, AND briefly flirted above a major resistance level, as fund flows into the local stock market ahead of a major stock offering continued.

At the Philippine Dealing System, the peso closed at 45.41—its highest level since August 2000—after touching 45.39 during afternoon trading. The closing rate marked a 28-centavo appreciation for the local currency against the US dollar which, in recent weeks, has been taking a beating in foreign exchange markets worldwide.

Nonetheless, the head of one of the most influential treasury operations in the country pointed out that recent developments on the local and international front have yet to make their outlooks for the local currency.

"The foreign exchange play is supply driven and has not factored in in... PESO /B3

Shares down 0.80%

GSIS willing to defend its insurance plan in court

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) said it was willing to defend in court its proposal to take over the motor vehicle and third-party liability insurance business, stressing that its plan was the best way to address insurance-related fraud.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, said it is to reverse that his office would pursue its plan to be the sole provider of insurance for motor vehicles and third-party liabilities despite strong opposition from other players in the insurance industry.

"Our proposal will protect the public from fraud, and it is the most convenient for them," Garcia said. "We are willing to go to court to fight for this."

He gave the statement when asked about his comment on the possible insurance industry's stiff opposition to the GSIS plan.

The Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pinai) earlier said it would not the Department of Transportation and Communication if it would push through with the implementation of Order Insurance Order No. 2007-20, the which ensures that motorists have comprehensive third-party liability (CTPL) insurance upon registration of their vehicles with the Land Transportation Office and upon renewal of registration and insurance fees.

The order was issued on July 13 and was supposed to take effect 15 days later.

The DOTC said in the order that there would be only one insurance company to handle all the vehicle insurance business. Reports earlier said that the DOTC tapped Insular Infrastructure Corp., partly owned by the GSIS, to be the sole provider of CTPL insurance.

Pinai, which has over 50 nonlife insurance firms as members, said the DOTC order was unconstitutional because it allows for a monopoly of the CTPL business.

The DOTC order was temporarily put on hold after the Department of Finance asked that it be subjected to a review first.

The insurance commission, an attached agency of the DOF, earlier said it was against a monopoly of the CTPL insurance business and was in favor of having a few insurers that is properly regulated.

But Garcia stressed that the GSIS proposal was not a full monopoly, for explained that the GSIS would reinsure 90 percent of its liabilities with other insurance firms in the industry. Michelle V. Remo

ABS-CBN income jumps 77%

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lasaca

TELEVISION GIANT ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. reported that its net income jumped 77 percent to P738 million from P417 million in the same period in 2006.

The company cited improvement in its advertising business and the contributions of its subscription-based arm.

In the second quarter, its net income grew 53 percent to P459 million, from P300 million in the same quarter last year, said Mildred Ann Ilarmento, ABS-CBN vice president and chief finance officer.

Ilarmento said in press briefing that the company also expects this year's net earnings to exceed P1.00 billion.

"At the rate we're going, we may exceed P1 billion ... but there are factors out of our control," Ilarmento said. "The (budget) deficit sets big and, if it weren't for (the public fiscal deficit), analysts said the peso would have been at 42 instead of 46 ... this would impact on businesses and advertisers."

Gross revenue increased by 12 percent year-on-year to P9.2 billion from P8.2 billion for the three months of the previous year, driven by higher net consumer base and sales of services.

Gross airtime revenue grew 9 percent 20 percent to P5.2 billion from P5.14 billion on the back of improving ratings and higher advertising volume, as well as significant contributions from cable.

While industry advertising TV minutes dipped 4 percent, ABS-CBN still managed to claim some growth of 0.2 percent year-on-year, it said in a filing to the bourse.

ABS-CBN claims it is the nation's wide leader in both audience share and ratings, enjoying an advantage of 16 and 4 percentage points, respectively, over GMA Network Inc.

Combined sale of services and sale of goods of subsidiaries likewise posted a healthy 31-percent increase to P1.7 billion in the first half, on the back of the favorable performance of ABS-CBN Global and ABS-CBN Films.

As of end-June, total subscriber base of ABS-CBN Global rose 28 percent year-on-year, equivalent to 1.6 million customers worldwide.

ABS-CBN Films registered a 40-percent increase in revenues, buoyed by robust ticket sales.

Total net expenses went up 6 percent year-on-year to P7.9 billion during the first half as the company realized higher cost of sight rate on costs.

Yields on peso-denominated bonds fell on expenses, pre-tax income rose 92 percent year-on-year to P1.1 billion.

Ilarmento also said that the company is falling behind in targeted P1.2 billion capital spending set for this year.

For the first half, capital expenditures hit P417 million, up 6 percent from P395 million in the same period last year.

"We expect our capex spending to increase in the second to the fourth quarters," he said. "There is one factor that has been causing the delay—the rollout of our digital terrestrial TV project."

Ilarmento explained that, since the government has not yet established the standards for the Philippines, Digital TV would be launched at a later date, probably in the first quarter of 2008.

A digital television narrowcast service (DTV) license will pave the way for digital television services and match off-screen analog television programming set up.

Further growth in profits may also come from the possible bidding in of cable channel operator SkyCable Inc. ABS-CBN, which has teamed around to profit this year.

Shares in this may finish a value-less study on SkyCable by the third quarter. This will guide the possible conversion by ABS-CBN of its P30 million loans to SkyCable into shares, which may increase ABS-CBN stake in SkyCable to beyond 50 percent from the present 11 percent.

PostalBank sees 31% hike in '07 income

STATE-OWNED PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS Bank Inc. (PostalBank) registered a 31-percent income jump on the back of increased lending activities, as its loan portfolio jumped by 36 percent from June 2006 to June 2007.

That puts the bank's first semester net income, after tax, to P161.62 million, exceeding by 6 percent its year-to-date target of P117 million.

PostalBank was reopened in 1986 via Republic Act 7354, or the Postal Service Act of 1992. It will celebrate its 15th Thanksgiving Day on July 22.

According to PostalBank president Rolando L. Macasaet, the first-semester net also partly due to the increase in the bank's private deposits, which grew to an all-time high of P1.75 billion—an increase of 111 percent as of the first semester of 2007 compared to the comparative last year.

PostalBank's deposits consist of 61 percent government and 39 percent private deposits, a considerable improvement from last year's 75:25 ratio.

PostalBank ranks 17th in terms of asset size among 161 thrift banks. It ranks 14th in terms of deposit, 18th in terms of loans, and 20th in terms of profitability, as measured by return on equity.

Peso hits new . . .

From page B1

tor to take Globe and prepare to that on heading up," RBSC economist Jose Ayalin Salas said in a message to the bulletin.

Trading at the PSE was brisk, with $697.5 million changing hands in the end of the session. At its weighted level yesterday, the peso closed at P45.22.

Salas said the bulk of the inflows were declared by initial public offerings (IPO) on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). The P4.9-billion IPO of broadcaster GMA Network Inc. is ongoing, with its shares expected to be listed on the bourse by month's end.

The RBSC economist pointed out, however, that the peso's strength may be short-lived, given the unfolding developments abroad.

"The Bear Stearns sub-prime market and its ball-blown impact will not support a strong peso," he said.

A fund manager with a local bank said the peso is set to test the P45 level over the short term, with the major resistance pegged at P44.50.

Apart from inflows into the equity market, the bank official said the rise could be credited to dollar supply side pressure as dollar-selling by the rapid appreciation of the local currency.

"There is a tendency now for OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) to send [dollars] in more [peso] terms, instead of holding on to them, instead of holding on to them, instead of holding on to them

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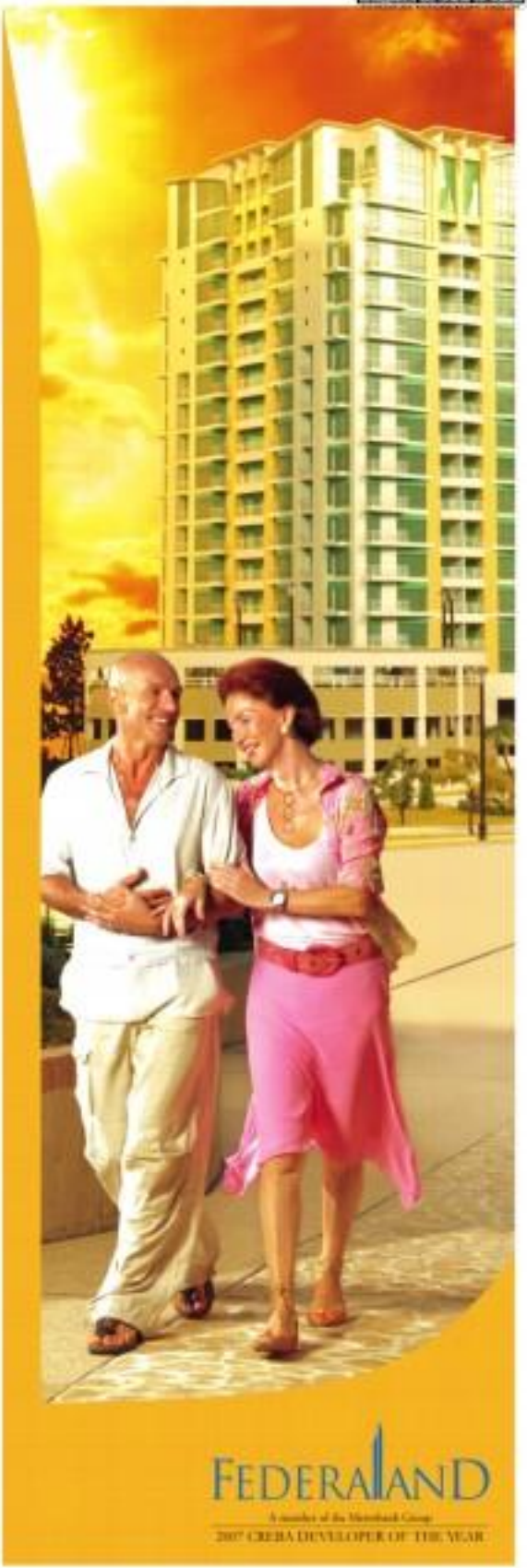

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Aboitiz Power junks plan to bid for Masinloc

Firm to focus on hydro, geothermal projects

By Abigail L. Ho

LETTER HEAD ABOITIZ POWER Corp. has abandoned plans to bid for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plan as it opted to focus on renewable energy assets.

Masinloc will be auctioned off on July 26.

Aboitiz Power president Erramon Aboitiz said the company would no longer aim for the coal-fired plant and that it was preparing to bid for some of National Power Corp.'s hydropower and geothermal facilities that would be privatized in the coming months.

In its prospectus, the company indicated its preference to "buy-and-build" generation assets. The Ambuklao-Binga hydropower package, the Angat hydropower plant, and the Malaya-Tiwi and Tongonan geothermal power facilities.

For Aboitiz's hydropower assets, Aboitiz said the company would use its Aboitiz Power Inc. (DMPI), a company composed of Aboitiz Power and 35%-owner Hedong Singapore, as the bidding vehicle.

The group in late April took over the operations of the 246-MW Magat hydropower plant in Isabela after edging out during the December 2006 bidding its sole competitor First Generation Northern Energy Corp. with a bid of P2.01 million.

For Napocor's geothermal assets, Aboitiz said the company would likely ask for a strategic partner.

"We're still evaluating your options). Chances are we'll have a strategic partner for that," he said.

Apart from its planned acquisitions, he said Aboitiz Power was also looking at some greenfield projects that would add much needed capacity to the country's main power grid.

"The privatization of Napocor-owned assets is an investment opportunity, will not bring in the much needed additional power capacity in the country in the very near future. In fact, in many areas, things are already looking a little tight. So with the greenfield projects, we propose to help the country by addressing the requirements for additional power," he said.

Aboitiz Power, together with joint venture partner Taiwan Cogeneration International Corp., expects to spend between P2.00 million and P4.00 million for a planned coal-fired power plant in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur C. Yap visits the rehabilitated irrigation canals in Bago, Cotagaan in Oriental Mindoro. These form part of the Bago-Bacayao Irrigation System which is expected to be completed in November this year and will benefit 1,700 farmers in the barangays of Libtangin, Malamin and Naujan. With Yap are Administrator Marcelino Taguiam of the National Irrigation Administration, Oriental Mindoro Governor Antonio Pamaglian and Representative Rodolfo Valencia.

Gov't to bid out Calaca coal-fired plant in Oct.

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. has set for Oct. 15 the bidding of the 600-megawatt (MW) Calaca coal-fired power plant.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said that, while the privatization body committed to give prospective bidders ample time to put together their documentary requirements, PSALM would not budge on the set auction schedule.

"We want to show our resolve in trying to get all these assets sold," he said.

Starting the July 18 pre-bid conference for this National Power Corp. asset, 17 groups qualified to participate on bid for the Calaca plant. Calaca is the second big-ticket item that PSALM would be putting on the auction block this year. The first will be the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales that is coming Thereafter.

Abigail L. Ho

Meralco to buy more supply from Napocor

AMID THE SUGGESTION OF THE Department of Energy, Manila Electric Co. said it would get more of its power supply requirements from state-run National Power Corp.

"This is the reason why we formalized our discussions with Napocor earlier regarding our proposal to increase the contracted energy under the Napocor-Meralco transition supply contract (TSC)," Meralco vice president for corporate communications Mpi Cuna said in a statement.

He said Napocor president Cyril del Callar had written Meralco, saying the power firm had agreed to the distribution utility's proposal to increase its contracted energy level under the TSC.

Quoting Del Callar's letter, Cuna said the Napocor board acknowledged that the increase in contracted energy would result in lower power rates.

It could likewise help facilitate the Napocor privatization process as it would make the assets to be placed on the auction block more attractive to prospective bidders.

"Meralco has always taken into consideration how increasing or decreasing the amount of power we obtain from any one source would ultimately impact on the bills of our customers," Cuna said.

He said that for the month of June, Meralco was getting a greater portion of its power requirements from Napocor as compared with what it was sourcing from the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM).

Meralco presently gets around 20 percent of its supply requirements from the WESM, 45-55 percent from its independent power producers, and 25-35 percent from Napocor.

Cuna said the higher dispatch of its IPPs last month helped reduce Meralco's overall generation cost.

"The ideal situation really is to have as high a level of contracted capacity as possible, and then have that adjusted to the plants," outgoing Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla had said in an earlier interview.

He said this would not only lower the quality of the TSCs and the amount of capacity that could be allocated to the Napocor plants, but also dilute Meralco's customers from the volatility of the spot market. Abigail L. Ho

Attitude, approach and application

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST JULY 17, three respected personalities gave valuable insights on governance and governments in a forum sponsored by the Ramon Power and Development Foundation (RPDEV) and the Roberto F. de Ocampo Center for Public Finance and Regional Economic Cooperation. Though not directed to any specific sectors, these insights are valuable for all sectors, three insights are valuable.

Former President Fidel Ramos suggested an attitude that would combine unity, solidarity and teamwork with clustering, caring and sharing. Former Finance Secretary Salvador de Ocampo suggested an approach where the government should take the role of an "enabler," rather than a provider. former Social Planning Secretary Cielito Habito suggested that the spirit embodied in the Local Government Code be applied. The local government unit, not the Department of Agriculture, should take the lead role in agricultural development.

Attitude

For agricultural development to take place, there should be unity, solidarity and teamwork at LGU. In many areas of the country, this is not happening. These LGUs programs are different from LGU priorities. The private sector - composed of farmers, fisherfolk and agribusiness - is not actively involved in agricultural planning and implementation.

However, there are some very successful models where there is HIT. This is where the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Councils, composed of government and private sector representatives, are effective.

But to be truly successful, in addition to having well-trained, progressive officials should also be doing enough so be transparent, and allow the private sector to know and help improve their plans. Likewise, the private sector should demand its share in provincial attitude, and participate in the PAFCs.

Approach

It is recommended that the approach of the LGU should be that of an "enabler," rather than a provider. An LGU will not be a "fish-out" giver, but an empowering force. An equally big challenge is for the DA to stop being a direct provider of agricultural services, but instead an agency that will enable the LGU to effectively provide these services.

In this forum, newly elected Muntinlupar Governor Jose Antonio Carrion said that many LGUs may not know how to best promote agriculture development. This is understandable.

But a very long time, DA personnel have been sent to the provinces directly without even consulting the LGUs. Thus, the DA provided agricultural services, while neglecting the task of enabling the LGUs to deliver these same services effectively.

Since the 17,000 DA extension workers are now under the supervision of the LGUs and no longer with the DA, it is necessary to set aside, rather than eliminate, them. This can be achieved by training these extension workers on the stewardship of DA resources.

Application

Secretary Habito said one of the best ways to improve agricultural development was to make the LGUs to be responsible for agricultural development.

COMMENTARY takes the lead role in agriculture, there will be limited success because responsibility and accountability lie in the LGU, not the DA. Habito said that in ensuring that the LGU will not be a "fish-out" giver, but an empowering force. An equally big challenge is for the DA to stop being a direct provider of agricultural services, but instead an agency that will enable the LGU to effectively provide these services.

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Application

Secretary Habito said one of the best ways to improve agricultural development was to make the LGUs to be responsible for agricultural development.

Recommendation

In 2002, the DA supported a three-day five-to agricultural planning and implementation conference for each province. The LGUs and the DA jointly determined each province's agricultural development priorities for the year.

In these sessions, it was established that though the DA had the majority of agricultural development funds, it would be the LGUs that would take the lead. Because of this, there was unity, solidarity and teamwork, as well as caring, sharing and daring. What was not completed was the emphasis on the enabling role, and maximum participation from the private sector.

That was five years ago. It is recommended that such individual provincial conferences now be conducted regularly by newly elected LGU officials. The two incomplete areas of emphasizing the enabling role and facilitating maximum private sector participation should also be covered.

The DA and the PAFCs can be the catalysts for this effort. Thus, the recommended set tasks, approach and application discussed during last Wednesday's forum can be applied in a realistic and practical way, thus benefiting our ailing agriculture sector.

The author is the chair of Agri-watch. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch@yahoo.com or mobile 813 8122 123.

PAL completes funding deals with French, German banks

By Rex T. Drilon Jr.

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES SAID IT HAD COMpleted financing agreements with Calyon Credit Agricole CIB of France and Dresdner's KfW IPEX Bank to fund its acquisition of a pair of brand-new Airbus A320-200 jets for PAL's ongoing narrow body fleet modernization program.

Calyon and KfW have a long working relationship with PAL, having helped finance an earlier fleet renewal program in 1997-1998. that also featured the acquisition of A320s, as well as A330 and A340 widebody aircraft.

The financing package includes 12-year pure commercial loan arrangements without any third party guarantees. The unsecured loans was arranged by Calyon with both itself and KfW underwriting and providing the loans.

"These agreements clearly show the confidence of the international financial community in the future of Philippine Airlines," PAL president Jaime J. Bautista said.

The fleet renewal program will see the addition of up to 30 A320-family aircraft to the airline's fleet, comprising nine A320 Ceo aircraft, two leased A320s, four leased A319s and five A320 option aircraft.

Six of the nine have already been delivered, with the seventh, an A320 that is a subject of the financing agreement, scheduled for delivery tomorrow at the Airbus facility in Toulouse, France.

By the end of the year, three more aircraft are due, while the two will arrive next year.

Separately, PAL Holdings Inc., formerly known as Baguio Gold Holdings Corp., told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had obtained regulatory approval for the change in its articles of incorporation and an increase in its capital stock.

PAL and PAL Holdings are both controlled by tycoon Lucio Tan.

PAL Holdings said the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved the company's amended articles of incorporation and certificate of increase of capital stock reflecting the change in the corporate name from "Baguio Gold Holdings Corp." to "PAL Holdings Inc."

Also approved was the proposed increase in its authorized capital stock from P400 million to P20 billion.

The approval enables PAL Holdings to change old stock certificates with newly issued certificates. PAL Holdings said any stockholder desiring to have their stock certificates replaced might surrender their old stock certificates to the stock and transfer agent, Allied Banking Corp. Trust and Investments Division.

PSE proposing revised rules on short selling

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE is proposing a revised set of rules for short selling, aimed at enabling the local stock market to move sophisticated and attracting more investments, while minimizing the risks involved in the transaction.

Francis Lim, exchange president and chief executive officer, said the PSE board initially approved the revised set of short-selling rules and had submitted it to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for approval.

Short selling refers to the sale of any security that the seller does not own, or to a sale that will be settled by the delivery of borrowed securities.

Short selling occurs when a person sells at a higher price a stock that he does not own and later buys the same stock at a lower price the same stock for delivery to the party which is buying at a higher price. The difference between the higher selling price and the lower buying price represents the profit of the short-seller.

"This is the essence of short selling, which is the opposite to investors who look to hedge their positions in the stock market," Lim said.

He said the proposed short-selling rules, soon approved by the SEC, would complement the rules governing Depository Securities Borrowing and Lending (SBL) program.

The proposed rules will govern transactions that involve PSE trading participants, which are the dealers for the accounts of the participants or their clients.

Under the proposal, no client, no officer or principal stockholder of a listed corporation should make a short sale in securities of a listed corporation in which he or she is a director, officer or principal stockholder.

The rules allows the PSE, upon due notice to the SEC, to restrict or prohibit short selling indefinitely or for a period of time deemed necessary for the protection of investors.

A trading participant who is engaged in short-selling activities is required to maintain hedges which should contain full and complete details of all his transactions. The PSE, for its part, is required to make available in its web site all daily short-selling activities at the close of each trading day.

The rules also require all short-sale transactions to be executed in accordance with the so-called "up-tick rule," which provides that no trading participant should use the PSE facility to effect a short sale of any security unless the transaction is done at a price that is higher than the last sale price.

The revised rules state that only securities in a list of qualified securities and stocks are eligible for short-selling.

A CHINESE woman carries her goods walks past an billboard advertising a new commercial building development in Beijing. China's economy expanded at a roaring 11.9 percent in the second quarter, official data showed, prompting warnings that the government will clamp down hard to stop serious overheating. AFP

China's economy roars ahead, clampdown seen

Overheating feared as GDP rises by 11.9% in Q2

BEIJING—CHINA'S ECONOMY EXpanded at its fastest pace in over a decade in the second quarter, raising expectations that the government will act quickly to stop serious overheating.

With inflation picking up sharply, China recorded faster-than-expected growth of 11.9 percent in the second quarter and 10.9 percent in the first six months of the year, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

As the current rate of growth, China's gross domestic product (GDP) is now widely expected to overtake Germany's as the world's third largest by the end of this year, having already surpassed Britain and France in 2005.

However, rather than overtaking Germany, officials and analysts said the authorities would be more concerned with stemming the economy should it form a pace not unlike the heady days of the mid-1990s.

The last time China's economy neared its current pace was in 1993 when full-year GDP for 13.1 percent but that was at a time when it was coming off a much lower base.

NBS spokesperson Li Xiaochuan told reporters that a series of cooling measures this year, which included two interest rate hikes, had already had some impact but the government needed to do more.

"We will continue to strengthen and improve macro-control measures," Li said at a press briefing to announce the figures.

Li identified a range of "outstanding problems" in the economy.

"These are: the imbalances in international trade, inflation in food prices and the pressure on energy conservation and pollution reduction," he said.

China announced last week that the trade surplus for the first six months of the year had soared to $113.3 billion, about the forecasts affirmed.

Thursday's data was much stronger than expected, with most forecasts for first-half and second-quarter growth just at around 11 percent.

The expansion also came off a higher base than originally thought after China last week revised up its 2004 figure to 11.1 percent from the original 10.7 percent.

Of particular worry is China's fixed-asset investment, which rose 3.2 percent in the first six months of the year and jumped to 4.4 percent in June from 3.4 percent in May—well above the government's full-year target of 3 percent.

China's factories also continued to speed up production, with industrial output up 18.5 percent, while fixed asset investment, a key measure of money government spending in infrastructure, rose 25.9 percent in the first half.

Li Wenyong, an economist with Shenyin Wanguo Securities based in Shanghai, said all signs pointed to overheating and the government would be forced to take decisive measures to cool the economy.

Li and other economists said one key measure that would likely be announced very soon was a third increase in the bank rate.

Aside from raising interest rates, the central bank has asked commercial banks to curtail new loans extended for the rest of this year in a bid to take some of the liquidity out of the banking system and slow investment.

Economists said similar measures would be implemented this year.

Lehman Brothers's economist Sun Mingchun said the most urgent issues were the trade surplus, food price rises and the nation's ever-worsening pollution, and the government was most likely to target these areas in its cooling measures. AFP

Crude oil, gasoline prices up as US stocks fall

NEW YORK—CRUDE OIL AND gasoline futures both rose Wednesday after the US Department of Energy said gasoline stockpiles unexpectedly fell, despite a bigger-than-expected rise in refinery operations.

US gasoline stockpiles dropped by 2.3 million barrels, mainly on a huge drop in exports, in the week ended July 21, the DOE's Energy Information Administration reported.

Analysts had expected a 560,000 barrel gain.

Crude oil stockpiles fell by 900,000 barrels, compared with a 700,000 barrel drop forecast in a Dow Jones Newswires survey of analysts.

Refinery use rose 0.6 percentage point to 91 percent of capacity, higher than expectations of a 0.3 percentage point gain. Distillates, which includes heating oil and diesel, fell 200,000 barrels, compared with expectations of a 700,000 barrel gain.

"There was a massive drop in gasoline imports, of 500,000 barrels a day, which led to the drawdown in stocks, but this will likely be transitory" and the price gains might not last, said Jason Schenker, an economist at Wachovia in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Trade has followed these higher and could be long lasted by the gain in refineries," which could signal more demand, he said.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery gained $1.01 cents to $75.05 a barrel on the Nymex, reaching another 11-month high the last time a front-month contract closed over $75 was Aug. 9.

Brent crude for September rose 99 cents to $74.52 on London's ICE Futures exchange.

Meanwhile, August gasoline rose 3.92 cents, or $2.1299 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange after rising as much as 5.34 cents earlier.

A big decline in imports and a drop in gasoline production were behind the decline in inventories. Gasoline imports plummeted by 508,000 barrels a day to an average of 93,000 barrels a day last week. Gasoline production fell by 64,000 barrels to 9.2 million barrels a day.

Imports of crude oil grew by 162,000 barrels a day to an average of 10.4 million barrels a day.

Demand for gasoline, meanwhile, grew 1.3 percent over a year ago.

August heating oil and natural gas futures followed the rest of the energy complex higher. Heating oil rose 2.10 cents to $2.0605 a gallon, and natural gas rose 8.3 cents to $6.39 per 1,000 cubic feet. AP

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Japan car makers to halt output

TOKYO—JAPANESE AUTOMAkers, including Toyota Motor Corp., called production halts over the next two to three days because of quake damage at a major parts supplier.

The temporary closure of auto-parts maker Aisin Corp.'s plant in Kariya-machi City near Chubu region on Monday is expected to halt production at 16 assembly lines at 12 domestic factories centered in central Japan, producing 78 percent of group output, according to Toyota Motor Corp. and Fuji Heavy Industries, two of the affected companies.

Toyota, Japan's No. 1 automaker, will stop production lines at a dozen factories centered in central Japan

BUSINESS

COORDINATED CAMPAIGN

Gov't seizes P2B in pirated goods as of H1

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Committee for Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) has seized some P1.93-billion worth of pirated goods in the first semester alone.

This is equivalent to almost half the value of counterfeit goods the committee confiscated since its inception in 2005.

The group—spearheaded by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and composed of enforcement agencies Bureau of Customs, National Bureau of Investigation, Optical Media Board and Philippine National Police—has tagged in close to P9 billion worth of pirated items since its creation.

IP Philippines director general Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the value of confiscated goods in the January-June period had already surpassed the total haul last year of P1.85 billion.

"This first half figure is the outcome of strengthened institutional linkages among NCIPR member bodies that share vital information that yield successful raids," he said.

Over the past two years, he said, IP Philippines and the enforcement agencies had been coordinating more closely with other NCIPR members, including the Department of Justice, National Bookdevelopment Board, National Telecommunications Commission and the Supreme Court.

Since January, NCIPR enforcement agencies have conducted inspections on 470 cases on the strength of 302 search warrants.

In 18 operations, the agencies were able to raise warrant seizure and detention.

The BOC raked in the largest value of pirated goods at P408 million in the first six months, more than half the P733 million worth of goods it seized last year.

The BIR confiscated another P443 million in the second quarter, consisting primarily optical discs through customs raids all over the country.

The PNP seized pirated items valued at P346 million, arrested 86 individuals, and filed nine cases, while the NBI confiscated P151 million worth of fake goods and filed 118 cases with the DOJ.

"All these efforts are in line with the President's directives of upholding intellectual property rights since this promotes diffusion of knowledge, develops local talent and creativity, and at the same time encourages more foreign investors to consider their strong positions in the Philippine market," Cristobal said.

BUSINESS Friday

Look 'nay, it's raining cash!

Big banks now willing to lend more money to SMEs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S UNIVERSAL BANKS are only starting to realize what the thrift and rural banks and microfinance institutions have known for a long time—there is money to be made in lending to the micro, small and medium-scale industries.

This explains why banks such as the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Banco de Oro have taken a closer look at increasing their exposure to companies with assets below P100 million, which are crying out for affordable capital to expand their business.

BSP president Amando Montinola III said during the recent edition of the Good News Explosion at Pigare in Greenbelt 3, Makati City, that the bank intends to increase the share of SME lending to as much as 15 percent of its total portfolio by the end of this year.

The SME market cannot be ignored primarily because of its size—more than 90 percent of all firms registered in the Philippines are classified as SMEs and employ more than half of the labor force.

Thus, aside from the interest income on the loans extended to the SMEs, banks can get the added satisfaction of helping spur economic growth by extending loans to the SMEs.

"What is happening now is that everybody is looking at lending to SMEs, and I expect the growth in lending to SMEs will be higher than the lending on the corporate side," Montinola said.

He attributed it partly to the more re-

LOCAL B2-4

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BUSINESS Friday

A gold mine for barangay enterprises

A law giving incentives to small business ventures has been hardly tapped. It's time to act

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP Institute of Small-Scale Industries

THE INTENTION OF THE BARANGAY Micro Business Enterprise Law (BMBE) of legitimizing the informal sector or underground economy is unprecedented.

Unregistered, unregulated and unsupported micro enterprises cannot access the support systems and assistance programs they need to survive and grow and contribute to the progress of underdeveloped communities.

The BMBE Law, or RA 9178, was enacted in 2002 to flush out micro underground economy workers of Filipino entrepreneurial talents—from the underground into the mainstream economy. As they join the mainstream and grow from micro to small, as they begin to innovate and diversify in production and marketing, these tiny enterprises can create more jobs and generate more livelihood and income values they can sustain.

The law provides incentives to (a) unregistered micro businesses, defined as an enterprise engaged in production, processing or manufacturing of goods, including agro-processing, as well as trading and services and whose total assets do not exceed three million pesos (P3 million).

Incentives

Under the law, registered BMBEs can avail of the following incentives:

- Tax exemption of income arising from the operations of the enterprise.
- Exemption from the coverage of the minimum-wage law for employees/workers hired after BMBE registration, although they will still receive the same social security and health care benefits as other employees. Existing employees and workers prior to BMBE registration shall continue to be covered by applicable labor laws and regulations, including the nondiminution rule on existing wages and benefits.
- Priority to a special credit window that was set up specifically for the financing requirements of BMBEs.
- Technology transfer, productivity and management training, and marketing assistance programs.

Hardly scrambling

Five years ran its course, and small enterprises are hardly seen to be scrambling to get out of their hiding places and avail of the incentives. It is estimated that more than 5,000 micro enterprises have registered.

Possibly there are small entrepreneurs so isolated they haven't heard of this law and its potential benefits. Others may have sniffed the assistance and incentives being offered, did some pencil pushing and concluded its not worth their while registering and paying taxes—the statutory fee.

For these micro businessmen who have found the incentives short, it may be a case of preferring short-term benefits over long-term benefits and opportunities to grow and prosper.

The labor sector, for its part, has not made any boost of its position over the BMBE law. It has inclined the law for legitimizing employment of workers by exempting them from minimum wage legislation.

Perhaps unreasonably hopeful on by Labor representatives is that underground businesses, to begin with, relish both the urgency to pay decent wages and social benefits to workers and that exploitation may not be the issue here but sheer survival.

On the other hand, efforts by many local government units to promote and implement the law are encouraging.

Often mentioned is the fear of lost tax and other revenues, given the exemptions that business registration are entitled to. But that may not hold water. What taxes are lost from unregistered, untaxed businesses who have availed the benefits of the BMBE since their inception?

Still, income LGUs can assume that the Law treats extract from already organized and paying users.

Overlooked

Perhaps overlooked is the potential of micro enterprises to multiply many times over its present size. Until an academic study is done to find a categorical answer to this, it may be anybody's guess.

Last Wednesday, the UP ISSI held a seminar on the BMBE Law to inform stakeholders of the law among micro enterprises and local government units and promote its implementation. It was among various activities held to mark SME Week.

Guerrilla effectiveness—The Pareto Principle in guerrilla marketing

Marketing life continues to host Jay Conrad Levinson, bestselling author of the Guerrilla Marketing book series (more than 14 million copies sold) as our guest columnist.

Jay Levinson:

THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERence between efficiency and effectiveness, and it's in that world where guerrillas live. They are well aware of the power and compassion of the 80/20 rule and have probably read Richard Koch's book, "The 80/20 Principle" because even in suicide... "The forces of debasing them will through. It dramatically emphasizes the effectiveness that can be gained by simplicity.

Alas, even guest like don't hit the bulls-eye with all of their marketing, but at least they direct their energies towards learning which 20 percent of their marketing generates 80 percent of their sales. Just learning this to be true is a compelling reason to learn where each of your customers learned of your existence, to recognize that all customers are not created equal and that 20 percent of them were likely account for 80 percent of your profits.

The 80/20 rule teaches you simplicity and applies to most of your business from marketing and most of your life, too. Examples:

- 80 percent of what you achieve at work comes from 20 percent of the time you spend working.
- 20 percent of a company's products usually account for 80 percent of its sales.
- And 20 percent of its employees contribute to 80 percent of profits.
- 20 percent of criminals account for 80 percent of crimes.
- 20 percent of executives cause 80 percent of accidents.
- 20 percent of your carpets get 80 percent of the wear.

- 20 percent of your clothes will be worn 80 percent of the time.
- 80 percent of traffic jams occur on 20 percent of the roads.
- 20 percent of computer users purchase 80 percent of software.

Your job? To find out which 20 percent of your marketing is motivating the most sales, to determine which 20 percent of your customers are producing 80 percent of your profits, to learn which 20 percent of your prospects are most likely to become customers.

One of the most fascinating definitions of entrepreneur comes to us from the French economist J-B Say, who coined the word, and said "the entrepreneur shifts economic resources out of an area of lower productivity into an area of higher productivity and yield."

That sounds like many of the definitions and 80/20 rule is that there's a subtle lot of wasted money and energy in life. The guru of the guerrillas can then to identify the area of lower productivity and then to do something about it, then identify the area of higher productivity and do something about it. It's the doing something about it that determines the real winners.

The actions you take to eliminate waste and double up on effectiveness may make you seem unreasonable. So take comfort in George Bernard Shaw's words: "The unreasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

When you discover which 20 percent of your customers are responsible for 80 percent of your sales, focus on keeping them happy, increasing the amount they purchase and do with them, and say them for their referral power because these are obviously satisfied customers. Paying more attention to them to those your marketing budget because you can pay less attention to the 80 percent who maintain 20 percent of your profits.

Once you mind has absorbed the full implications of the 80/20 rule, consider applying it to other ways: celebrate exceptional productivity rather than taking average efforts, look for short cuts. The universe loves thin solutions. Delegate and outsource as much as possible. Target a limited number of goals and focus like a laser beam upon them.

Because you're a guerrilla, don't do any of those things in a hurry. Patience will enable you to spot the areas that need changing, then to implement the changes in that humanity remains part of your random operandi. Fun isn't bonus; it's the key to success. Be happy, be beautiful. It's simple that is most beautiful. If you're an 80/20 kind of guerrilla.

Jay Conrad Levinson is the author of the bestselling marketing series in history, "Guerrilla Marketing," plus 30 other books. He has sold 14 million copies worldwide. Levinson taught guerrilla marketing for 18 years at the University of California at Berkeley and practiced it in the US...as Senior Vice President at J. Walter Thompson, and in Europe, as Creative Director and Board Member at Leo Burnett Advertising. He will be in Manila on July 27, for seminars on Guerrilla Marketing. Call the Philippine Marketing Association at 634 5722 for details.)

Email Jay Levinson your questions and comments to Marketing@pdi.com.ph

The bane and boon of being a large taxpayer

(First of two parts)

THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF announcement by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to reappoint classifying them as large taxpayers.

For many, wondering the motive for the first time, there seems to be some confusion, if not opposition, as to what they perceive as additional burdens brought about by their new classification.

Does becoming a large taxpayer or retail many delinquent compliance requirements with the BIR? Will a new large taxpayer be subject to more extensive audits and investigations?

Being classified as a "large taxpayer" is, to some extent, a badge of progressive business.

A large taxpayer is said to have satisfied any of the following criteria:

As to tax payment, any taxpayer with (1) a net VAT paid or payable of at least P100,000; (2) an annual excise tax paid or payable of at least P1 million; (3) an annual income tax paid or payable with annual income paid or payable of at least P2 million; (4) an annual withholding tax payment remittance for all kinds of withholding taxes of at least P1 million; (5) aggregate annual documentary stamp taxes of at least P1 million; or as to financial conditions and results of operations, (7) a total annual gross sales/receipts of P5 billion and (8) any taxpayer with a total net worth at least P100 million.

TAX-FILES

SGV&Co.

Large taxpayers fall under the zonal of the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) of the BIR. The idea is that large taxpayers are grouped together under one BIR department to strengthen administrative control over them and thus improve the collection of taxes. The collection of LTS alone accounts for 84 percent of BIR's total collection.

The LTS serves as a one-stop shop to similar to a revenue district office (RDO) which can fully cater and address the needs of this group of taxpayers.

The LTS through the 10 divisions under it can receive and process all kinds of applications, i.e., secondary registration, authority to print, TCS, etc., monitor collection of taxes, conduct audit, enforce collection of taxes, and other functions.

The concept of large taxpayers began in 1995 with the enactment of RA 7646, otherwise known as the "An Authorizing the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to Prescribe the Place for Payment of Internal Revenue Taxes by Large Taxpayers."

The rules and regulations prescribed for the initial selection of those 1,000 large taxpayers by the CIR. The regulations stated that considering the substantial contribution of internal revenue taxes collected from these large taxpayers, their is a need to monitor promptly their tax compliance.

However, the regulations provided only for the centralized monitoring of the filing of income tax returns, payments, and payments of taxes by these large taxpayers.

The different large taxpayers remained in their respective revenue districts, which conducted their own separate audits, enforcement and collection.

This was followed by RR 1-98 (an implementing regulation of the 1997 Tax Code), which expanded the coverage of large taxpayers from the initial 1,000 large taxpayers to 3,000 large taxpayers.

It should the BIR's policy of continuous expansion of selection of large taxpayers until 85 percent of the total collections of the BIR shall have been captured and monitored through the database of large taxpayers.

However, RR 1-98 set a deadline not less than the former quarter of only centralized monitoring of filing and payment to centralization for all administrative purposes under a single agency.

Thus, in 1998, Executive Order No. 175 created the Large Taxpayers Service in response to the need for a well-defined institutional structure in dealing with large taxpayers. (To be continued)

Banks lend helping hand...

from page B2-1

loan economic activity, which is trickling down to the countryside.

BDO senior vice president John Hay Chua shared bankwide's view.

Chua, who handles the commercial banking group, said that BDO also expects lending to SMEs to increase from 6 percent last year to 11 percent of portfolio this year.

First exposure

Chua said BDO first got exposed to the SME sector when it extended financial aid to its tenants and suppliers. From there, BDO opened up to other clients, especially through the personal loan side.

BDO personal loans, or loans of up to P2 million without required collateral, are among the cheapest in the market with reasonably interest rate of less than 1 percent and many promotions and small borrowers/repay made it into a cheap credit line.

For brave easy

Lending to SMEs, however, is far from easy. Planters Development Bank chief Jesus Tambunting said in the briefing that teaching to SMEs involve balancing the SMEs' need by money and compliance with the banks' lending requirements.

Tambunting said that based on Planterbank's over 20 years of experience in lending to micro and medium-scale firms, there is no one formula for analyzing the SMEs because they are all different, and have different levels of exposure.

When you discover which 20 percent of your customers are responsible for 80 percent of your sales, focus on keeping them happy, increasing the amount they purchase and do with them, and say them for their referral power because these are obviously satisfied customers. Paying more attention to them to those your marketing budget because you can pay less attention to the 80 percent who maintain 20 percent of your profits.

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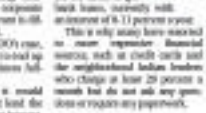
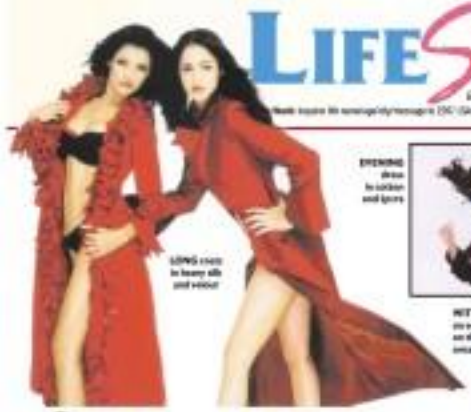


LIFESTYLE

Editor Chela Bautista-Formoso



EVENING dress in satin and lace

EMBROIDERED bubble dresses in silk organza

LONG coat in heavy silk and velvet

KITTY beaded & co-ordinated embroidery on the bouzou vests

BACKLESS dress with beaded vest and bra-like bolero

The modern woman

CAMBODIAN DESIGNER Ferreyda Keth's hair not ideas about the swallows vacuous.

"She is liberated, independent and has many lovers," says Keth. Using exquisite fabrics and beads, Keth's designs are tight and easy to wear. They are modern garments worn effortlessly and fetchingly.

Ferreyda Keth will soon open shop in Manila. Her latest collection will be shown Nov. 9 at Shangri-La Makati.

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JEH RAMOS, Levi's corporate marketing manager; Ronnie Hamadiao, Levi's country manager; and Gaby de Lithecourt, cross-cultural director

THE NEW Levi's Girls, models Ornena Cadness and Kelly Misa, with TV host Patty Laurel

MISS Earth Priscilla Meirelles

JIMMY Sy, Levi's Girls owner; Ronnie Cabreldi, Levi's brand manager; John Medalla, Levi's national sales; and Tony Sy, Levi's Girls store owner

Denim store for the fashionable woman

FASHION show at the Levi's Girls store offered opening showcases the recently launched Levi's Coppers; Levi's Lady Style with its feminine yet contemporary silhouettes; Levi's Red Tab line that gives the widest array of flared bottoms; and Levi's Engineered Jeans for those who want more freedom of movement.

LEVI'S GIRLS IT WITH ITS NEWEST Levi's Girls store at Festival Mall, Alabang, palengpeng.

Opening the Levi's Girls' store to the fashion brand's vast offering heads counted long to the gals who're constantly on the fresh-out-the-box, dahil ngs.

In fact, the feminine touch is apparent to the store's interiors. Fun and eye-catching accents; a generous use of the color pink; and a total but, luminous feel. Dat make-over-ery-thing'al bet at home, palengpeng.

The store's opening featured girl power! Hot celebrities were spotted Ornena Cadness, cross-car driver Kelly de la Mensad, TV host Patty Laurel, Miss Earth Priscilla Meirelles, model Kelly Misa, and Miss International Precinct Lesa Quiquemon.

Most of the women took a road trip to the shelves to check out the latest lines of Levi's Girls, Levi's Coppers and Levi's Lady Style—all feminine and sophisticated masterpieces.

The Levi's Girls store is definitely a feel-good where all trend-setters can find suits filled with stylish denim and apparel and lines of eye-catching accessories.

Any all you cool gals, check out the awesome Levi's Girls store at the Festival Supermall. It's a fashion store totally created with only you in mind, palengpeng.

Bacardi bash

It seems to be all over: no town's fashion sightseers, palengpeng. It's also the brand that's in the touch of the hippest party premiers on the list time, and its events have been happening, like, ever before.

Brand Bacardi, the top premium rum, has lately returned to Manila's party scene in a big way. It recently followed up its newly-talked about 'fifty' in Boracay with a bash to back Bacardi Black in Batangas.

The party mob knew they were in for a spectacular night, as the entire club's façade was in red, the distinct symbol of fine spirits everywhere.

The bash started with a fire dance outside the venue, keeping guests entertained while in queue. Upon entering Embassy, gorgeous models offered VIPs the taste of the smooth, amiable spirit of Bacardi rum.

The drink was served in different ways all night long, palengpeng. Inviting energetic dancing fill a lot of the party-goers dropped out due to sweltering heat.

Resident DJ Johnny Weiss, Ace and Elliot Miranda played Dave Guetta's hip-hop and mash-up beats, which rocked the main room. Universal local DJ Blue Ivy took over the dance floor the following week. Also performing were DJ Cherry and Bo Bautista, with young PR and DJ GP Reyes, who played sophisticated house music.

Yeah, it was one of the coolest parties ever attended that week, palengpeng.

And surveillance cams were spotted much of the night; mates, but the all-time favorite was Bacardi Models Thereza Santos, Jessa Bautista, Jessica Reyes and a dash of sofia Moran, I loved it, dahlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen
using Kodak EasyShare

Nokia N95 race

They came, they saw, but alas, only two conquered, palengpeng.

Text to Nokia's title, if pandemic mania are out to discern the "real" of Manila is the Nokia N95 Wireless Adventure. They were all armed with a Nokia N95.

For two grueling days, they had to shop at a market, get together a work of art, extract a song, learn a secret recipe, shoot videos, take and edit photos, while chatting all over town, and singing their hearts out, would you believe?

The digital adventure was to show off the awesome features of the Nokia N95. "Tagged as a multimedia computer, the Nokia N95 comes equipped with all that you'll ever need," said the pronounced brochure. You name it, N95 has it, dahlings.

After the contest, a fun bar hosh was held at Un Ayala Mall circuit.

It was hilarious watching the video as what the participants had to go through. The grand winners were the team of Cat Jimin and Ed Capuhong, who were each awarded a cool P50,000 and trekkers to the ultra-fame Annapolis resort in Bolinao, palengpeng.

Having the best time and super happy over the eco nationwide event were the Nokia people led by brilliant country GM William Hamilton-Wykes, who was with his stylish wife, Angelique Raynaud; marketing brand Analeny Khanna, corporate communications manager Nikka Abaya, and marketing managers Emem del Callar.

Participant Cora's cyber-smart woman in the go, Annie Ringor, made sure we were all taken care of, palengpeng. We enjoyed a feast of wood fired especially prepared by Margarita Forés and our friends while we watched the sizzling wooden performances of Up Dharma Down.

Hearts and BMW

Top luxury car brand BMW and internationally acclaimed jewelry salon Hearts held a two-tiered sizzling affair in three stations, BMW in Libis, palengpeng.

Hearts's fiber collection was "created for the stylish modern man." And it was displayed in a different kind of fashion show that had handsome model actor Troy Montero driving a fantastic BMW motorcycle to the stage, dahlings.

The show was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of visionary Hearts founder Fil Co, and with, eye-catching Edtech Co, and young award-winning jewelry designer Shamrock Ng and Rene Ramone, who also directed the show.

After the show, dynamic BMW duo/dream chair Tony Aquino and Fil Co exchanged gifts onstage... and Denver's BMW model and a plaque of appreciation.

Both were joined by BMW Auctioneer partner, the brilliant Bobby Reandelar, for the presentation of his prizes to the lucky raffle recipients.

It was truly an evening of sheer pleasure—the sheer pleasure of driving a BMW on, no less, and the sheer pleasure of wearing Hearts jewelry, palengpeng.

"We are family": Levi's Girls store owners Christy Sy, Perry Cupino, Dory Sy Cupino and James Sy

TOURING, award-winning Manila designer Rissi Romero Diamante Ng; bank of the Inner Trip Planners, Ka-Co and Zubeth Co; Manila boosters.

NEW Chefs, Rachel Chan-ong and Nicole Co

BMW dandruff promotion Bobby Reandelar and BMW dandruff star Tony Aquino

WYING Lee, Rocky Liu, Evelyn Chua and Bernard Ng

STYLE in Lean of Hong Tee Pick...

BRAND ADVENTURERS. Nokia N95 marketing manager winners Ed Capuhong and Cat Jimin

AYGH Arcache, Patty Laurel and Paolo Soler

NOKIA marketing head Sandhya Khanna (right), event hosts Archie Alemania and Iya Ysmino

MAH Reyes and Ryan Ordoñez

BACARDI'S hotshots Bibo Martinez and Ace Aguilar with close pal Mel Barro and Alexis Silverio

TIGUY Dario, Nokia corporate communications manager Nikka Abaya, Bridges & Cook's Toni Gregory and Janine Dario

ANGELIQUE Raynaud

TONY Sy and Ronnie Hamadiao

JOM Herrera, Pete Mendoza and editor Sam Carbonell

MCI and Nokia country general manager William Hamilton-Wykes flanked by Jenine's Lisa Banks and ABS-CBN Publishing's Thelma Simora-Sarmiento

JAP Server (right), Nokia's Corinne Rivera and Jill Lorch

THE GANG. Faye Hain, Jessica de Borja, Kristina Joaquin, Nikki Bautista and Gina Aguilar

IVAN Calderon and business magnate Hua Ching

Goings On

INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR. The International Bazaar Foundation, Inc. will have its 41st consecutive national Bazaar on Nov. 23 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas City. Foundation members include representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps, and government agencies. In photo are Leila Salgado, PRO; Nora Salazar, treasurer; Lovela T. Rosado, chair; Quirico J. Fondac, president; Jane Abacan, vice president and Ambassador Julia Niedermann, secretary. Proceeds of the bazaar will go to projects for the less privileged.

Dale Starr Enterprises Instantaneous Shower Heater

Mid-year makeover

THIS JULY, MARIE CLAIRE MAGAZINE, in celebration of its Mid-Year Makeover issue, that's sure to inspire you to make fitness changes near. Be inspired by the life-altering participation of these women who finally took charge of their lives. Have you always had those eyes on a friend that remarked had enough money for? Start spending already as Marie Claire does the month-end shows you how to get your day extras can help you sidetrip your cash woes. Find out how you can make your incumbency figure already by taking inspiration from the women who literally conquered the highest mountain on earth, as they share their journey towards becoming the first Filipino on Mt. Everest. One woman who has undergone such extreme transformation is Angel Jacinto Santos, who shares the 10 most important life lessons that have allowed her to live her best life yet. Grab a copy of this July issue of Marie Claire Magazine, available in all leading bookstores and magazine stands at P105 per copy.

LEARNING FOR KIDS. Leapster Learning Game System from a special promotion for the entire month of August. Every purchase of this Leapster Learning Game System 2007 Aug. 1-31 comes with a free Leapster backpack worth P1,490.75. Leapster, made by LeapFrog, makers of educational learning devices for kids, is characterized gaming system with interchangeable cartridges and a built-in learning component for kids 5-10 years. Also available is Leapster TV Learning System for kids 3-6 years old.

DESIGN YOUR VIRTUAL PET. Virtual Pet Specialists Ambassadors, 8-14 years old, can join The Tamagotchi P4 design-contest shopping until July 20 for a chance to win P10,000 worth of Tamagotchi items. The two winning designs will be used in actual Tamagotchi P4 units to be manufactured in Japan by Bandai, makers of the Tamagotchi Connection. For contest mechanics, log onto www.bandai.com.ph or www.toyzone.net. Jumping will be held on July 28 at the Grand Emcee Olympic Lot Pasay Mall.

DISCOUNT ON HYBRIDS PRODUCT. Kando users and SM Advantage cardholders can now be fit and healthy while enjoying great savings. By presenting their SM Advantage, SM Prestige or SM Rewards card, they get a 10 percent or P300 discount with every purchase in a box of Kando Whole and Bran July 15-29 from any Watson's outlet nationwide. Kando Whole and Bran is available exclusively at SM Hypermarket outlets.

LOYALTY CARD. Customers of Joan Jewels Boutique can now get Loyalty Cards. Whenever you shop at any jewelry store, with a minimum purchase requirement, the customer gets one stamp on his/her card. So every four stamps, the customer can buy any single jewelry item at 20 percent less than the regular price. Promo ends June 20, 2008.

Joan Jewels is also hosting the online bazaar joanjewels.com.ph's contest "Guess My Worth." Participants can win a diamond studded 18k gold bracelet. Joan Jewels Boutiques are in Ayala Cebu, Gaisano Festival Mall, SM South mall, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia and SM Cebu.

CONFERENCE. The World Development Association of the Philippines presents a conference on "Works Across Southeast Asia," Aug. 28 and 29 at the Bayview Park Hotel. The conference aims to deepen the awareness of the various social policies regarding books that are voluminous and publishable. Southeast Asia. E-mail publishers@pacific.net.ph or the point@pacific.net.com.ph.

SEMINARS. SEG Creative Training and Management will hold the following seminars: "Psychology of Management" (July 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "The Challenge of Creative Selling" (July 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Warehouse Management" (Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.); "Effective Supervisory Skills" (Aug. 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 899-7960, 0920-9320 or 894-8870.

SEMINAR. The British Council will hold its seminar on Classroom Discourse Strategy on July 28, 1-5 p.m. at the SIT of Pilipinas Hotel, 21 Gen. Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The seminar is free of charge and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 814-5311 to 14.

PHOTO COURSES. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Inc. holds basic and advanced photography courses starting Aug. 18. For registration, call 929-6165, 929-8971 or 924-6785.

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Metropolis Star Alabang
Ilocos Complex, Novaliches
Tanay Mall, Rio Rose, Laguna
Tandang Center

GRAY four-piece pin-stripe pantsuit with bow and button accents

BLACK elephant sleeve knit cardigan shirt and white slim pants

WHITE shirt with ruffles and pearls; khaki with button jacket and checkered pants

BELTED khaki trench and stripe pants

What to wear to work?

TODAY'S working women have the option to wear what suits them best, whatever hectic days could throw at whatever office dress will requirements.

Work wear for women has evolved through the years—from the collar cuff and sleeve-rated suits of the glass-ceiling days to the rather relaxed casual Friday clothes in recent years.

At IM, today's clothes for working women are less ornamental and boxing, embracing both a corporate agenda and a great sense of style.

Check out the latest collection at the Ladies Wear Department of all IM Stores.

BLACK pleated-pin-tuck, white long-sleeve shirt, olive tie and black pants

CHOCOLATE-BROWN long-sleeve jacket with ruffle accents and matching skirt

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Contributing Editor: Ria Francisco-Pilares

FESTYLE Editor: Chelo Basol-Formoso

BEAUTY

HER MOTHER'S DAUGHTER. Cristelle Hontanosas (left) proves she doesn't have to become a doctor to fulfill her mom's dream. At hands-on and hardworking as ever, Dr. Vicki Belo, she takes the roles of the celebrity doctor's assistant and mom.

BEAUTY DEPENDENCY. Its link to popular show-biz figures has played a large part in making Belo a household name. But the teamwork that's services haven't been accessible to a wider audience until now, as the Belo Essentials skin whitening range takes its regulation and expensive body.

. . . And beauty for all!

Vicki Belo has come up with her own line of dermal products that makes the Belo brand available to the mass market

By Chesho V. Mond

"BUENO, BONITO Y BARATO."

Good, pretty and inexpensive. That's how Dr. Vicki Belo summed up her most project her own skincare line.

"What I want is to make the Philippines the most beautiful country in the world, one person at a time," she said at the launch of Belo Essentials at the Makati home last week.

Then Belo, a household name to countless party-and-dermatology-dazed people, decided to offer her brand on pore and lines of fellow women her retail shouldn't come as a surprise. It seems only the natural progression of an immensely successful practice that was built over a 17-year period.

The question is, why only now?

It took long to develop a product that's good enough to put my name on, Belo told us three months ago, when the first mentioned the project.

Belo has had to work with different chemists over the years until she found one who got the formulation right. Apart from pioneering many cosmetic trends in the country, Belo is also known to personally test the efficacy of her services and products. And she attacks by them.

The six-product Belo Essentials line is composed of two soap bars, two facial washes and two body lotions. And, unlike some of the highly-exclusive services offered at her clinics, the line is targeted at the mass market, retailing from P95.75 to P267.75 in select supermarkets and drugstores.

While Belo Essentials is the culmination of a dream project for the celebrity doctor, it's equally significant in that it signals the foray of her only daughter into the beauty game.

It was Belo's dream to have at least one of her two kids study medicine, and daughter Cristelle Hontanosas, 24, chose to work with the Royal Pchaneuve of the Philippines as a post-bed resident in Bibliotecarios 10 months. Her oldest brother, Hyatt, is a film director. When she graduated, she gave Belo her mom's wishes and enrolled in medical school. It's one more, only to realize the rigors of the study didn't suit her temperament. It was the end of a Belo dream.

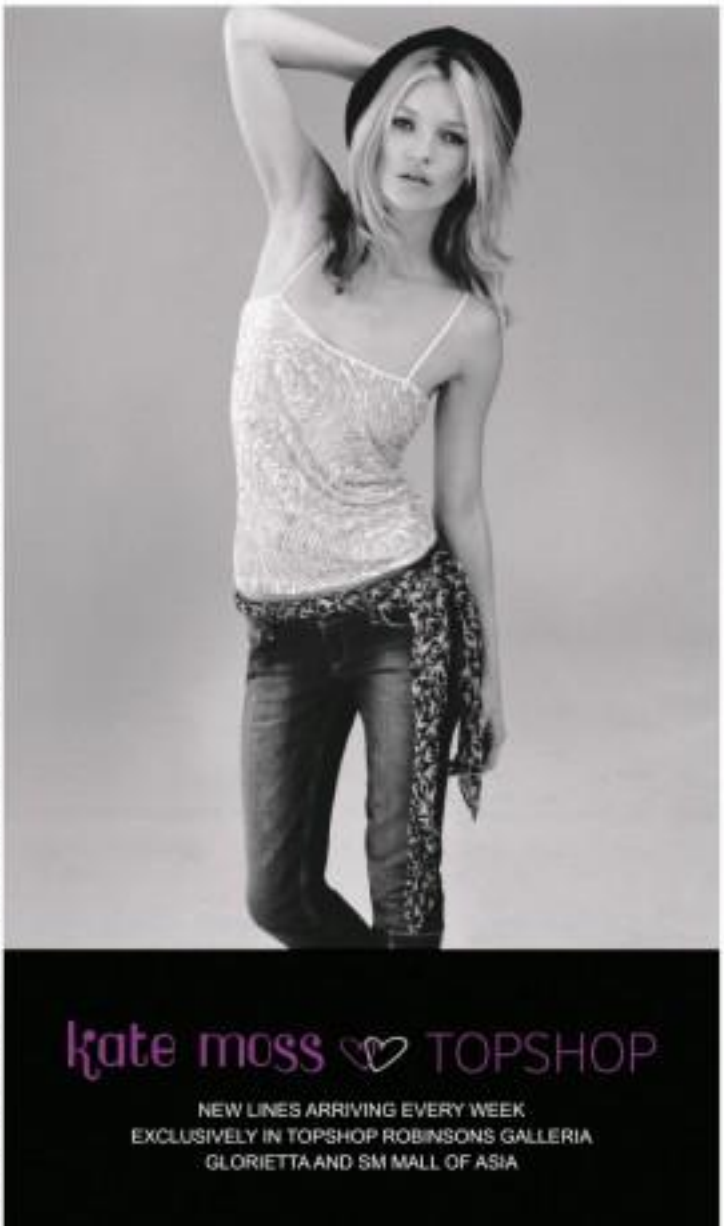
Troubled to post by guilt and filial duty, the young woman presented her mother a proposal. However, knew the latter couldn't resist, to finally make the skincare brand project a reality.

Belo set up Intelligent Skin Care Inc. (ISCI) with her daughter as the boss in-training. "My only says 'managing director, but it's the managers who are teaching me," said her self-effacing Hontanosas.

Deluxe line

Belo Essentials' debut line is a whitening range, or whitening means skin extracts a primary concern of majority of Belo's patients, according to Hontanosas. It uses a so-called Invisilight Skin System that is said to both

AND BEAUTY D-1



ALWAYS fashionable Victoria Beckham sports the new popular "Pob."

Not the hair!

Breakup time or when feeling down is not the best time to mess up with your 'do

KNOCKOUT! Ria Francisco-Prieto

IT'S SOMETHING we've gone through at least once in our lives. What is it? The urge to get a haircut after a breakup or when feeling down.

The youngest sister of a friend of mine was telling me she went off to get a hair since she had just broken up with her boyfriend. But she wasn't sure if she was doing the right thing because she has the family and wanted a change in her life.

In my book, I'm supporting. Please don't. You will not only get a bob, you will also end up looking like 90s.

Of course, I didn't say this out loud, but honestly we girls are guilty of this. I've learned to just throw away some of my old pictures, because when I was going through a similar phase in college, I did the same thing: get a bad haircut.

NICOLE Kidman's iconic ice-blonde cut

One guy ended up asking me if I had fallen asleep in the garden and the gardener had accidentally cut-cut my hair. Bear that outrageous thing!

Mom then, I've decided to cut my hair some short.

Yeah, it is the oldest formula in the book. Go through something painful equals getting a haircut. But most of the time, the result is feeling bad about it afterward.

Come to think of it, maybe that's why we do it. At least, we don't have to think of the guy or whatever that had pissed us off since we now have something even more horrible to fret about.

Why get one, really? The guy will just feel like you got effected, so much, but that won't make him get back to you still.

So this is what I told the little sister of my friend: The best revenge is to look good always. And that has nothing to do with a drastic haircut that might just end up frightening prospective suitors.

PROBABLY influenced by Victoria Beckham, Katie Holmes-Cruise sports her own version of the look.

But if you think getting a haircut after a rough patch in your life is something you have to do, by all means bring a picture of the hairstyle you want done. Don't just tell the stylist to do whatever with your hair, since now is not the time to be too adventurous. There are just too many things going on with you emotionally. Getting stressed out over a bad "do-do(subtle)" is an addition.

Here are some pictures of young Hollywood stars and their hot hairstyles. Bring them with you the next time you visit the salon.

But I've a better suggestion. Why not just go to a spa or have your nails done?

Cosmetics of care and beauty

Michiko comes up with trendy looks using the skincare makeup brand

Text by Bianca Cervanij, Contributor
Photos by John Herrera

MICHIKO, A JAPANESE AND makeup brand distributed by Unicon selling line Sotoya, recently held its grand launch at Emerald Mandaluyong with a makeup competition and fashion show.

Michiko, a Japanese term for "child of beauty," has two lines under the brand, namely Michiko Colour and Michiko Skincare System. Taking off from other Japanese brands such as Shu Uemura and Shiseido, the brand believes "beauty starts with beautiful skin."

The brand also takes pride in being a "skincare makeup" brand. Ingredients such as shea butter, almond oil, Vitamin E and natural plant extracts are used extensively in its makeup products. Michiko Colour takes pride in its lipsticks (which are available in creamy and matte finishes), cheek blush (duos, and loose powder. Five shades that come in shimmery or matte finishes). The line also includes a "Touch-up Kit (a selection of long-lasting eye shadows in a palette) and cream-to-powder concealer/foundation pots, which are supposedly hypoallergenic and ideal for Asian skin tones.

LOOSE powder in mineral and shimmery formulas

LIPSTICKS come in matte and creamy finishes.

Last June 26, Michiko sponsored an on-the-spot makeup competition among 16 aspiring makeup artists. The artists were given a 45-minute deadline to convey Michiko Colour's philosophy—"simple yet elegant and sophisticated"—in their makeup. Amateur and professional artists competed to come up with the best commercial and bridal looks.

Winners

In the professional division, bridal category, Edgar Lachica clinched the top spot; Julio Gomez and Bubbles Ibuna took the first and second runner-up spots, respectively.

For the commercial category, Dellie Salonga-Lucero won first place, with Jeffrey Gutierrez and Joel Talavera taking the next two spots.

In the amateur division, bridal makeup, Juliet Romeo won first place, followed by Evelyn Manchigna and Jovelyn Velasco.

In the commercial category, Jean Hidrosa and Mitsuyuki Magsan were the champions, while Jocelyn Reyes and Michelle Chavez won first and second runner-up.

POTS of creamy concealer/foundation from Michiko

Overall champions were Belanjean (commercial category) and Julio Gomez (bridal).

Michiko also paid tribute to Ina Encarnacion by posthumously awarding him a spot on their Hall of Beauty. Ina Encarnacion, Filipino fascination, accepted the award.

The launch also recognized nine personalities in the beauty industry who were given the "Beauty Master" award. The members, who also judged the competition, included stylist George Bautista of Sir George Salon; hairdresser Angela Aurin; veteran hairstylist and makeup artist Rick Diaz; Mark-Oling Ekenstam beauty associate Tenie Yang; professional makeup and beauty photographer Pet Sy; Rayay president Tenie Alvarez; Ukoop vice president Tessie Gray; Mel Quiza of Prestigio salon; fashion designer Edel Ley; Evelyn Aleman-Cruz, president and CEO of Hair Asia magazine; and Ober Federico, creative director of Michiko Cosmetics.

The brand also offers makeup training to aspiring makeup artists. For inquiries, contact Bianca at 3254481 or visit www.unicon.ph.com.

cut & keep

Make mine mascara

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

APPLYING MASCARA IS NOT AS simple as you think. I remember losing a few of my precious lashes (every lash counts to me!) when I applied the mascara first before curling it.

First some shout curler is my curler stuck in my lashes?), then major (come on, let go of my lashes!), fear (oh my, what have I done?) and finally resignation (goodbye to my precious lashes).

Every woman has encountered this horrible experience once in her life, I'm quite sure. The good news here is that lashes grow back, and while they may no longer be as thick as they used to, at least we won't have bald spots on our lids.

Before learning the ropes of applying mascara, there is one basic thing to consider first: the eyelash curler.

Eyelash curlers and mascara are like husbands and wives. In short, they are partners. One can function without the other, but the potential to reach greater heights would be limited if they're apart.

They have to go hand in hand. So, first, invest in a good quality curler and you will have it for ages. But remember to replace the rubber every six or seven months, or whenever it seems to have stopped curling so effectively.

There are different types of mascara in the market. It all depends on what you need. Find out first what effect you want for your lashes before you go out and buy your mascara. Here's a simple breakdown of the different mascara variants out there.

1. Lengthening. Fibers and extending mascara promise dramatic lashes that will make your lashes longer. These are good for really short but thick lashes. Get a smudge-proof or waterproof mascara to make sure it really stays all day. Try Maybelline's Great-Lash Shiny Black Mascara. I wear swimming with this mascara and it stayed! Unbelievable. Didn't even smudge at all.

BEFORE

2. Maximizer and volumizing mascara means your lashes will look fuller and thicker with it. These types of mascara usually come with a primer (sometimes packaged at the other end of the mascara tube). The primer is the white stuff you apply before the mascara. Remember to let the primer dry first in order to avoid a two-toned look on your lashes (white on the tip, black on the roots). Try Clinique Lash Power Mascara or Maybelline XXL Mascara.

3. Tint or basic mascara. If you don't want any of the above effects and just want the natural look, this is the mascara for you. Young-blood Mascara by Estée makes your lashes look alive yet natural.

Before applying the mascara, wipe the wand tip first with a tissue. Then sweep the mascara from the base to the tip. Wiggle the wand from side to side to ensure more coverage.

AFTER

. . . And beauty for all!

From page B1

control melanin production and prevent transfer of melanin to the skin's surface. The main ingredients are all natural plant extracts (algina, California grape fruit pulp, etc.) that are claimed to be more effective in whitening the skin in just a month, compared to other brands that use papaya extract, which only exfoliates the skin's surface.

A clinical study conducted for 863 of Filipino and Japan (B to V Intolerable to dark brown skin color) by Dr. Sonia Alferez, a dermatologist accredited by the Bureau of Food and Drug, the results showed that Belo Essentials posed significantly better results compared to a leading brand. that's a reduction of 63 melanin units after three weeks of use versus only 31 units with a population trend over the same period. (A reduction of melanin above five units is visible to the naked eye.).

In an e-mail message to the Inquirer (via Hetanes), Alferez advised users to leave soap on skin for two minutes before rinsing, as was done in the clinical study. Consumers who are impatient to get results are similarly advised to use any soap no more than two to three times per day. Too much usage might cause dryness and irritation. Rinsed on subtracks," she wrote.

Similarly, Alferez said, "The maximum use of [the] Whitening Lotion to order a day only and a sufficient amount should be applied to cover the entire area you want to target. Ideally, one lotion can stay on your skin for six to 12 hours depending on the individual's lifestyle... For people who have sensitive whereas sun exposure cannot be avoided, we recommend Belo Essentials Whitening Lotion with SPF 15...

"People with skin infections or open wounds and On-the-go are not advised to use the product[s] because [they] were tested on people with normal skin types. Although we don't claim the products to be hypoallergenic, it is safe for all kinds of skin as shown by our clinical study."

Briones added that 863 also conducted a test on 110 subjects for two weeks and the "irritation rate was zero percent."

Make mine mascara

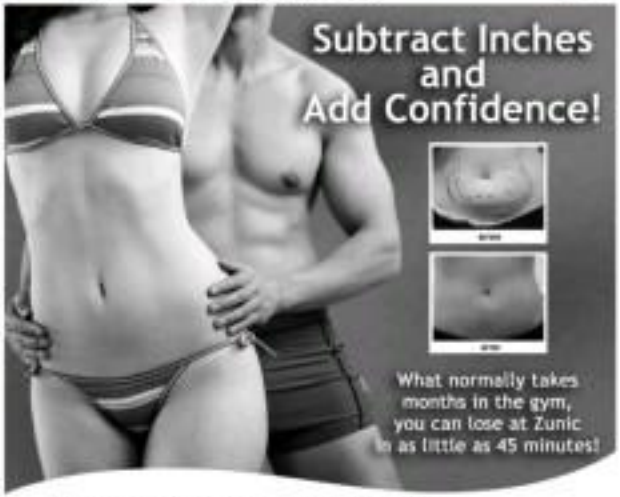
From page B1

I sometimes go two kinds of mascara at one sitting. I apply the volumizer first, let it dry, then add a second coat using the lengthening one. Applying mascara on your lower lashes is a personal preference. If you decide to do so, make sure to avoid the "spider-leg" look by applying minimally. Start at the same corner all the way to the inner eye.

One more piece of advice: If you want your mascara to last longer, then avoid pumping the mascara wand, as this fills the tube with air and dries out your mascara faster.

To avoid clumping, remember to wipe the wand with a tissue paper before each applications.

E-mail le_mag@inq7.net; yahoo.com



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Effective local whitening products for everyone

BELO EssentiAls whitening lotion, blue

FROMINENT SKIN CLINICS ONCE EXISTS find only with the rich and famous have pene-trated the mass market as well. Their every-point product—the ever-competed field of skin-whitening.

Let's face it. Whitening is what the majority wants and is willing to pay for. And the high-price skin doctors will sell at a lower profit, they need volume to get their capital back so fast as they can.

Well, I have tried the treatments and as ex-pected, they produce results.

For these doctors, to put their name on a popular product a high risk as I hesitated in the fact that they would be pressured to make high-quality and effective but affordable products. To be outperformed by nonmedical mass-market brands could doom their credibility.

So for I have tried two effective medical brands, and I suspect most of them will come.

Belo Essentials lure and body whitening products to blue or pink packaging promise whiter skin in seven days. The blue consists of foaming face-washes, soap and body lotions.

MAKEOVER 911
Kirsty Sotto

How to choose

Face wash—if you are acne-prone or greasy like me, go for the pink one (P82.75, 50 ml or P121.75, 100ml) as it has pore-tight-ening and oil-control properties along with the whitening effect.

Normal to dry-skin people should go for the blue one (P58.75 and P126.75).

BELO Essentials whitening body lotion, blue

These face washes are patterned after Olay-gio so they are very concentrated. A little is all you need for a rich lather. They remove make-up as well, including the waterproof stuff.

Bonus: pore-minimizing pink scrubs like cherry and blue smells like those expensive Japanese brands.

Body Soap—blue (P58.75, 90 g and P116.75, 135 g) and pink with exfoliating beads incorporated (P48.75 and P66.75).

Vicki and daughter Christelle Demetre sip in the bubbly in a rich lather during showers; leave on skin for ten or two minutes before rinsing off to give whitening ingredients enough time to get activated. I do the same for the face wash.

Before you groan in protest at the work in-volved, you may rinse off easily just make sure you apply the body lotion.

Once again, blue (P80.75 and P147.75) is the basic if not softer tonic and Pink, which has SPF 15 (P95.75 and P167.75), smells like cherries.

The lotion is designed for the rich down and should not be applied in face. A whitening face cream is under development and is taking longer because Belo Essentials wants to make sure it's non-comedogenic as well as hypoallergenic.

The lotion is formulated with the Snowlight System, which is a two-step whitening program that inhibits melanin (the pigment that darkens skin) production to a minimum and prevents the few that are formed from rising to the surface and darkening the skin or forming freckles.

Dermaclinix

Clean White and Firm promises to whiten and firm up body skin in two weeks.

Dermaclinix's skin specialists formulated their treatment with exclusive Skinbrite whitening and slimming complex. It contains L-Carnitine, which burns stored fat, and Clear Bleache, a fusion of seven active ingredients that inhibit melanin formation as well as prevent freckles and age spots.

In this case, I noticed that the firming action worked faster than the whitening function. There was a noticeable firming of skin in six days while the whitening effect took about 10-12 days (the body bar costs P89, 120 g, and the whitening and skin-firming lotion, P679, 200 ml).

Dermaclinix has concentrated on body products, which a good because there are enough reasonable whitening products in the market so that we see many whitened faces around but sporting uneven-colored bodies, just like a bad Photoshop job.

The advantage of these local products is that there'll be no more need for overseas shopping sprees or for begging relatives or friends traveling to Japan, Bangkok or Korea to bring home similar products. What a relief!

Belo Essentials is available in Alfamart, Bench and Mercury Drug stores.

Dermaclinix's Clean White and Firm are available at leading drugstores, and All supermarket and department stores.

E-mail the author at kirstysotto@yahoo.com.

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GOODY Colour Collection

Crown jewels

THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED GOODY hair accessories Colour Collection features accessories that come in two tones to complement unique hair colors.

The line features accessories like the ever-quirky claw—for ladies who want that glamorous, swept-up look—as well as cutesie clips that unobtrusively keep hair in place.

The StayPut collection is the perfect choice for those with more active lifestyles and the Goody StayPut high-performance accessory line, with patented gripping technology, provides more holding power than traditional accessories. Goody StayPut claims have 32 percent more hold compared to other brands.

Every accessory in the StayPut collection features the revolutionary Slip Proof Hold treat, which keeps them accessories from rolling, sliding or falling out of the hair during use, or high impact activities, even in the water. Different sizes also meet the challenge of varying hair thickness. Aside from elastics, the StayPut collection also features auto-clasps, mini-claws and metallic no-slide.

Goody hair accessories are available at leading department stores nationwide.

FASHION

LIFESTYLE

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Prints please

Short takes

Being human

GLOSSED-UP AIRBRUSHED and contrived images usually seen in advertisements and billboards can be so deceiving, unrealistic and uninteresting.

But beauty and style—the kind that's pared down, natural and raw—is definitely more appealing. It's all about being human, after all.

Brands that go out of their way to celebrate individuality are quite effective in getting their message across, or at the very least, getting noticed. Remember those Dove ads that featured real women in all shapes, ages and sizes? The campaign created quite a buzz, and was successful in encouraging women to celebrate who they are—flaws and all.

And now, clothing brand Human kicks off its latest campaign by taking on the true personalities, characters and lifestyles of its image models. Although there's nothing new about using a celebrity to endorse a particular brand, it's the unique personalities of the Human endorsers that make the campaign stand out.

The main concept of this particular campaign was to simply allow the Human endorsers to be themselves.

Case in point: model Isabelle Daza, whose affair with the camera's lens the audience now has little secret. The public often perceives Isabelle as prim and proper but with a lady's taming, other facets of her personality shine through during the shoot...a playful rootbeer sucker mixed with confessed crushes.

Dressed in Human's latest collection, Isabelle showed a personal style that's not dictated by trends. She's the coquette in a print-ed mini dress and the playful fashionista in a stylish jumper with a bubble skirt.

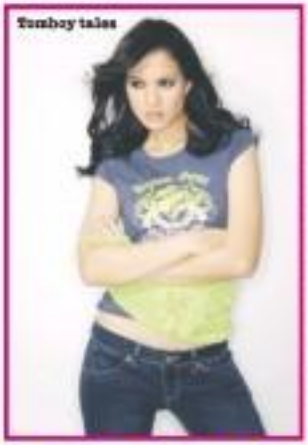
Glad in jeans and easy-to-wear tops, she is also very much herself...simple, effortless yet totally confident in her own skin.

The current Human campaign hopes to share the importance of self-confidence and personal character. The real trend is really all about expressing one's innate sense of style without becoming a slave to the dictates of trend and whim.

E-mail the author at illustrations@inquirer.com.ph

Apples' Pickings

Apples Alerta-Sadhwani



Tomboy tales

Rebel yell

Real beauty and style—the kind that's pared down, natural and raw—is definitely more appealing

In the jeans

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Fuss-free online shopping

ONLINE SERVICES CAN BE intimidating sometimes. It's an entirely different medium from interpersonal transactions where you can actually deal with clients face to face.

But www.flyingfabrics.com, an online shopping website, does it so seamlessly that customers and suppliers are willing to reach for the skies.

Josephine Gaspar, a local customer from Australia says, "Prior to using flyingfabrics.com, I would either send my gift or all because it was too difficult, or I would just call my relatives to do it for me. Sometimes, I'd also send money through an ambassador service. But while such gifts are always welcome, a surprise gift delivered to their doorstep is still a better option as it delivers more satisfaction to the recipient. I'm happy that flyingfabrics.com has provided me with a safe and reliable gifting service I've ever found so far."

Gaspar returns to the delight of her loved ones when they get special Christmas time (incidentally, her favorite) packaged and presented the flyingfabrics.com way. Her Tabletop gift baskets also get the same special treatment.

Suppliers likewise testify to smooth, worry-free partnerships with flyingfabrics.com. Rob and Mia, a sandy bouquet supplier, says, "flyingfabrics.com is very professional in its operations—from ordering to the checking of order, to delivery, to payment, to follow-up and finally room formation of deliveries."

They echo the sentiment today fabrics.com delivers due to the items are fresh." They also make sure that gift handling during delivery is done well, so the goods look perfect when they reach the recipients.

Find them and experience the unique service of www.flyingfabrics.com.

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Your World of Privileges

TAG-ULAN TREATS MULA SA WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD!*

BENSON

WESTERN UNION

Turkish fashion brand invades the Philippines, coming up with new spins on style staples

FOR THE vigorous generation constantly on the go, T-box's pioneering and creative shrink-wrapped packaging

T-BOX, the cult fashion line from Turkey, offers a laid-back, wonderfully eccentric style aesthetic, combining creativity and flair while subtly incorporating the latest trends in cuts, styles and colors.

TUBES! Big, shrink-wrapped garments that come in various shapes are T-box's signature products, which either be worn as an item of clothing. White sleeveless top, white casual shorts and T-box billboard.

Thinking in and out of the box

THERE IS AN ART TO subtlety in expressing your personal style, there is a fine line to tread between being fashionably distinct and overtly tonally. Playing it "safe" could come out too boring, while anything over the top could be perceived as trying too hard.

The key is knowing how to mix and merge the classics and basics with distinct pieces to come up with your signature style. Fashion wisdom dictates that sometimes, before stepping out of the box we need to figure what's inside the box first. In other words, you must know the rules first before you break them.

Now, that is the wisdom behind the T-box label—the cult fashion line that offers a laid-back, wonderfully wearable style aesthetic, without the monotony. In fact, it is synonymous with innovation.

Mabuhay!

Jozvil Epperson

The label from Turkey has made a name for combining creativity and flair while subtly incorporating the latest trends in cuts, styles and colors into their line. Its fashion philosophy is simplicity and versatility proving a new twist to an old trend.

Creativity comes into play by incorporating essential pieces and primary colors in order to come up with several looks. T-box is all about bringing out the multidimensional nature of a person.

Don't with the basics—tunic shifts, cotton tank tops and tees, lightweight skirts, slip dresses—be taught to life with colorful accessories. The savvy pieces are all designed to go well with your own wardrobe. Depending on your mood, you can go from flip-flop casual to fabulously glam.

The most outstanding thing about T-box that reveals its revolutionary nature is its packaging. It puts the "fun" back in fashion.

The brand pioneered the very creative and innovative mode of "squeeze" packaging. Thus, the garments come in various shrink-wrapped shapes that unfold to reveal an item of clothing. It's a big hit for the on-the-go generation.

From more distinctive, each T-box product contains real use-cute coins for European shoppers who have no time to wait for their change. Anywhere else and the coins can be collected or saved for a rainy day.

The brand, which is already a big hit in 27 countries, was brought into the country by the same crew that put Germany's hot outlet Bags with their top-selling Havaianas. Which just means they're on to something! When starting a fashion revolution, begin with the basics.

T-Box is at 2/F Arthouse Annex, Power Plant Mall, Makati. Prices, and shops to Phone.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

THE BRAND'S multicolor, mix-it-right, primary colors makes it easy to mix and match to get the perfect look for the day.

NO NEED to sacrifice style or color for the rainy season. Just sprinkle a fashionably practical rain jacket, pair it with a flattering V-neck stripe shirt and easy black top to get that layered look.

EXPRESSING a unique fashion aesthetic that can go from casual chic to glam girl, T-box lets you pair together countless outfits by pairing pieces from the collection.

Makeup Kang Zubuero for Shu Uemura
Hair Felicity Sanchez (Kiehl's Stylist Series

Decadently dark

Hush... hush, sweet Charlotte

By Janet Eppsteiner

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ATTITUDE. A raised eyebrow. A wry smile. An unmistakable sensuality beneath a cool, clean veneer. You carry it with you wherever you are, whether you're exploring a museum, watching a fashion show on front row, sipping a cocktail at a bar or just savoring a meal in a dark corner of a restaurant. You're showing the world who you are, yet you're keeping the juicy secrets to yourself.

There is something disarming about it all: an attitude that's edgy and dark, a style that is hot and feminine. This is the blueprint of Dazer designs.

Dazer designs are a sophisticated showcase for the chic young woman of today. The forms are feminine without being girly-girl or princess-precious. Single statement pieces can be mixed and matched with suede and versatile basics: strong, angular dresses paired with skinny pants, or soft shrunken jackets over long, lean tops and playful shorts.

The brand takes its name from... a religious educator? Yes, that's right. For it was in Dazer Hall, then the home of the St. Scholle School of Design and now Fashion Laboratory, where the four young fashion entrepreneurs behind the brand first met: Loralee Baron, Ina Dalle, Cheryl Thiessen and Anthony Smolcic—were block mates taking up Fashion Design and Merchandising back in 1998, and where they began to envision their new clothing line in 2002. They decided to give a modern-chart fashion education route by naming the brand after their college home. The irony that two of them eventually left the school hasn't escaped them, and Cheryl jokingly notes that their old professors might be surprised to see what they've accomplished.

Even after they left college, they've all gravitated around the fashion world. Cheryl began commercial and print modeling; Ina took up Fashion Design at the Whitehouse Institute of Design in Australia; Anthony majored in Fashion Design at the Art Institute of New York and the Fashion Institute of Technology; and Loralee continued her fashion education in Milan's Istituto Marangoni, graduating summa cum laude from her master's degree in Fashion Brand Management.

Then they're using their combined experience and love for fashion to bring Dazer to the public, with each playing an important role in the team. Their designs begin with Cheryl's imaging and designing. Ina sees her creative and technical design skills; Anthony brings his keen eye to selection of materials; and infuses the team with new ideas and inspiration gleaned from his work in New York's fashion industry; and Loralee handles the marketing and financial aspects of the business. Their skills and ideas often complement and overlap, allowing them to stay true to a single vision for their brand while introducing new ideas and innovations.

It is not unusual that the label's character rubs off on the wearer. The women who wear Dazer are self-assured and confident; they know who they are and what they want, and they're not afraid to experiment in each the rules of fashion. Some character page overflow on the three sophistication of Jenny Strickland, the quirky fashion sense of Gwen Dazer, or the reinvented refinement of beginner Denise Miller.

Next day, log on to www.dazer.multiply.com

E-mail the author at jbaker@inquirer.com.ph

The wild one

Dream catcher

Twisted

Eye of the beholder

Fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash Fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash Fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash Fashion flash

VANGUARD MESSENGER
Features rough-fabrayard waterproof nylon, strong nylon shoulder strap with ergonomic foam padding, waterproof 8-mm zippers and metal buckles. It has a super-padded laptop sleeve and can store Art documents as well as most tiny gadgets.

In the loop

LOOP BAGS, THE CREATIONS of French designer Romain Watches, are marked by unconventional designs, quality craftsmanship, refined materials, classy colors and over functionality. They are available at Leather Gallery, 2/F Eastwood Citywalk; Robinson's Place Ermita and Seba Greenhills Mall. E-mail loopbag-manila@yahoo.com.

VANGUARD CD BAG
Free your wallet to your glasses, credit cards, iPod/PM, bills, #1 documents or CDs, pens and mobile phones – everything you need to have can be conveniently stored in the Vanguard CD bag. Its "Total Opening" frame allows you to unfold the bag for wide access, or to unzip just a corner for secure access.
The side zipper dramatically increases the width of the bag, which can fit up to 14 CD cases (185 mm). The bag is also built with Airguard T waterproof nylon and 8 mm waterproof zippers.

Hyundai earns another J.D. Power and Associates apeal award

Azera Sedan tops its segment for second year in a row

Azera once again topped the large car segment in the annual 2007 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout Study SM (APEAL), which measures owner delight with the design, content, layout and performance of their new vehicles. The award represents the second consecutive year that Azera has topped the large car segment in the study. Outperforming several popular sedans, Azera received high marks for its interior, audio systems, seats, heating and air conditioning (HVAC), visibility and driving safety.

"Azera owners are impressed with the elegance and luxury of their car," said Diane Zuckmanski of Hyundai Motor America. "This award further reinforces our brand philosophy about how smart consumers think about premium sedans. Clearly, the Azera raises the bar by combining safety, luxury and value like no other vehicle in its segment."

In addition, this all-new Hyundai Entourage placed third in the van segment and the re-designed Hyundai Santa Fe mid-sized SUV increased its APEAL ranking well above the segment average, with a 36-point improvement over last year.

The Azera trophy case continues to grow with a number of honors and awards. It recently captured "Best in Class" for the sedans in the $25,000 to $30,000 category in Kiplinger's Personal Finance "Best of 2007 Cars" awards and achieved the top slot in the large car segment in the Strategic Vision, Total Quality Index™ (TQI) study, which measures the total vehicle satisfaction among new car owners. In addition, the Azera was named Edmunds.com "Editor's Most Wanted Sedan Under $30,000," and was named a Consumer's Digest "Best Buy." The 2006 Azera earned the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's (IIHS) top crash test ratings for frontal-offset impacts, aided by unsurpassed standard safety equipment like Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Anti-lock Brakes (ABS) and eight airbags.

About J.D. Power and Associates

Headquartered in Westlake Village, Calif., J.D. Power and Associates is an ISO-9001-registered global marketing information services firm operating in key business sectors including market research, forecasting, consulting, training and customer satisfaction. The firm's quality and satisfaction measurements are based on responses from millions of consumers annually. Find more detailed findings on new vehicle quality performance as well as model prices and specs by watching a video, reading an article and reviewing quality ratings at JDPower.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lyle Emma G. Velarde

INSIDE

- 'Foster Child' opens Cinemalaya today /F6
- Fun at 'Hairspray' bash InHollywood /F8

What in the world is 'comedy reality'?

"Since we switched to Sun, we've saved over 80% on our phone bills."

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Cristobal, President, Rotary Club of Makati Poblacion

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What in the world is 'comedy reality'?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

COMEDY REALITY TAKES OVER the time slot previously occupied by GMA 7 sitcoms or what was touted as the "Kid TV" time.

This "innovation" can be seen on the new show "Bring Him Back," says Marian Aquiatan, vice president for entertainment TV, who's also in charge of Our Kapuso network's comedy shows.

"Bring Him Back" runs on three nights—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—around 11, "after the Eat Bulaga Dabarkads," she relates. "On Wednesday the show goes on location for the announcement of the winner."

The show's concept is fairly simple, says Aquiatan. Three celebrities take on the jobs of ordinary Filipinos.

Pilot run

For its pilot run, three guy actors—Rustom Padilla, Mel Martinez and John Lapus—work as stargazer (newsboy) in the wet market.

The winner is chosen through text votes (50 percent) and the scores (50 percent) given by a retail-life worker called a hato' (Padilla won.)

With the premiere of "Bring Him" this week, the network's late night lineup was reshuffled.

Monday's "Who's Your Daddy Now?" and Tuesday's "Dahil Mo Ito Ito" had been canceled.

The gay show "Boss Inevitable," which aired Wednesday, was moved to Saturday, taking over the time slot of Bong Revilla's comedy show "Ah! In the Highest Level."

"It's been folded up," she explains. "It had its farewell episode last week, but Bong will have a new comedy show that's more adventurous in nature. Target launch is mid-August."

Comedy has evolved, Aquiatan points out. "But since there's a clamor again for traditional comedy shows, the network will go back to producing sitcoms."

JOHN Lapus, Rustom Padilla and Mel Martinez

Hybrid genre makes its debut on TV this week

So how does the network define "comedy reality"?

"It's the first of its kind," Aquiatan says.

Yet there's an observation that "Bring Him" seems similar in concept to the Kapuso's defunct reality competition "Extra Challenge."

"We intentionally wanted to avoid such comparisons," Aquiatan points out. "This new program is not a race. Celebrity contestants win on the basis of performance—on how well they did a specific job. In a way, we are also paying tribute to ordinary workers. We want to show how important these small workers are in society."

Lighthearted

Celebrated in the first show was a dancing guy who was able to send his children to school with his meager earnings.

In the pilot run, it was mentioned that a stargazer earns P1 per sack. For him to earn P630, he has to carry 14 sacks of vegetables.

Although the message is serious, Aquiatan insists that they aim to deliver it in a fun and light-hearted manner. "That's where hosts Joey Marquez and Kaempfer de Leon come in."

KEEMPFER De Leon and Joey Marquez

Other jobs to be featured are barkers for jeepneys (playing the Antipolo, Cubao route), jeepney/ong carriers or jumpstarters and hunting bulaw (pig dog) collectors, among others.

Needless to say, these jobs can be risky or dangerous adults-like.

In the pilot, Padilla, totally dressed-up, "experienced shortness of breath. Good thing, we had a doctor, nurse and ambulance on standby."

Aquiatan says that the program is taking all the necessary safety precautions. "We also got accident insurance for the stars."

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GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 VACANCY	3D HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
	4 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	5 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 TRANSFORMERS
GREENBELT 1	1 VACANCY	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
GREENBELT 2	1D HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2D HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 TRANSFORMERS	5 VACANCY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1D HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 VACANCY	5 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 VACANCY	4 WEST
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 PLANET TERROR		
	3 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 VACANCY	
TRINOMA	1 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 VACANCY	4 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
	6 PLANET TERROR	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7D HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	

AT THE MALLS
Ayala Malls
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Glorietta — Activity Center, July 26 to 30, 2007
Greenbelt — Activities Center, July 16, 2007 to Greenbelt 5
Alabang Town Center — Elsa Griswold Exhibit, July 13 to 22, 2007
Ayala Center Cebu — Accounting Quiz Bowl, July 18, 2007
Market! Market! — BPI Apartment Madness, July 6 to 22, 2007
Christian Life — UNMASKED - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 702-7863 or 757-0841
Ayala Museum — Bronze Dioramas: The Five Great Filipino Heroes Exhibit - June 30 to Jan. 6, 2008. Museum of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-0181 to 83 loc. 15 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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Alabang Town Center Activity Center — August 17-19
Trinoma Activity Center — August 3-5
11 am, 1 pm & 4:30 pm

Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Trinoma

Air crash probe

ON AUG. 31, 1996, TOE LARGEC 9 PLANE carrying 64 passengers and crew was about to land when a small Flyer 12a video plane entered its airspace.

The plane collided and Flight 490 crashed, killing 68 passengers.

In National Geographic Channel's "Air Crash Investigation: Out of Sight," investigators uncover how the small plane could have flown off-course, unseen from the air traffic controller radar.

The program premieres on Tuesday, July 24, at 9 p.m., replay on July 25 at 11 a.m.

CLICK!

New game show

"SLINGO," A MIXTURE OF TRIVIA, SLOTS AND bingo, premieres tomorrow on ABC 1.

To be hosted by Joey de Leon, the game show will have three pairs competing in the first round, two in the second round.

In the last and third round, the remaining pair participates in bingo, where TV callers is at stake.

Viewers also get a chance to win cash prizes via texting.

Mystery movies

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL'S MYSTERY WEEKend, a trailer is followed by six hour premiere the prime suspect in "Wife Six: Time to Be Murder" on Aug. 12, 7 p.m.

On Aug. 12 at 9 p.m., Samantha Emery (Kelly Martin) discovers the connection between a writer and game creator's murder in "Mystery Woman: Game Time."

The detailed rivalry between two villages ensues in a series of murders in "Midsomer Murders: A Tale of Two Stanfords" on Aug. 13, 11 p.m.

Fearless forecast for Awit Awards

By Pachabo Corresponden
Contributor

KAMIKAZEE, SOUKE Cole and Sandwich are the bands that have gotten the most nominations for the 2006 Awit Awards, topping solo acts, Gary Valenciano is leading with eight nominations.

Pre-screening of some categories was held yesterday and it took eight to six Aug. 15 at the SMC Music Hall Roadhouse Global City in Taguig.

There are 28 categories in all.

Kamikazee, known for its raunchy, metal-based music and the wild, screaming antics of vocalist Jay Contreras, was nominated in four categories on the strength of its multiplatinum (sales topped 7x) TV supershow-theme Best Performance by a Group, Song of the Year and Best Rock Song for "Narda", and Album of the Year for "Makatao," which includes "Narda."

Sponge Cola, a favorite of the college and high school crowd for its songs about conflicts in relationships, got nods for Best Performance by a Group and Best Music Video for "Mana" and Album of the Year for "Evasive."

Sandwich, whose vocalist Raimund Marasigan's punk influences are all over the band's current album, also have three nominations: Song of the Year and Best Rock Song for "Super" and Best World Alternative Album for "UHUH."

Odd mix

The lumping together of world, alternative and house into one category sounds odd—how does one judge, for example, the Senorita shout and film piracy theme of "UHUH" against the laid-back mood and romantic sentiment of "Pare Ko Akin" by Sponge?

Is nothing God would mean to compare a male opera to vocalists that includes Lucio—whose timbre seems a distant cousin—things get complicated when a rock-influenced band like alternative joins in the fray.

The Grammys don't even have a bossa nova category.

It would have been more logical if "Para Sa Akin" had been nominated for Best Jazz Recording. Then again, it probably wouldn't stand a chance against an exceptional jazz composition like "Sharon."

Brighter note

On a brighter note, the top two winners in ABS-CBN's reality-idol search "Pinoy Dream Academy" are in the running for the following categories: Best Performance by a New Male Recording Artist ("Hiker" by Jay-R Siaboc); Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist and Best Inspirational/Religious Award. (Yeng Constantino).

Curiously, there are only two nominees in Best Rap Recording. "Sigaw ng Tore" and "Sino Ako"—both written and performed by rap composer-entertainer Jaeger Mercado. Does this indicate a dearth in the quality of Pinoy rap releases lately?

The most interesting bit is who will take home the Album of the Year award, since the nominees include five works of Gino (using each hands joined against the other) of two minutes, Gary Valenciano ("Performance"), and Basil Valdez ("The Filipino Classics").

Regine Velasquez's comeback CD, "Reginal," a three-way race between "Twilight" (Dido), "Medusa" (Kamikazee) and "Tuloy" (Sponge Cola), with either of the last two winning by a nose.

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GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 – THX	6 PLANET TERROR
2 HARRY POTTER 5	7 WHITE NOISE 2
3 DIE HARD 4	8 indieSine: MORENO
4 TRANSFORMERS	9 HARRY POTTER 5
5 VACANCY	10 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN

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1 HARRY POTTER 5	
2 PLANET TERROR	6 VACANCY
3 WHITE NOISE 2	7 DIE HARD 4
4 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN	8 TRANSFORMERS

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS	6 PLANET TERROR
2 HARRY POTTER 5	7 WHITE NOISE 2
3 HARRY POTTER 5	8 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4	9 VACANCY

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 WHITE NOISE 2
2 HARRY POTTER 5	5 VACANCY
3 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 5	3 VACANCY
2 PLANET TERROR	4 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN

STA. ROSA

1 HARRY POTTER 5	5 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY	6 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE CONDEMNED	7 DIF HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4	8 THE CONDEMNED
5 TRANSFORMERS	9 NEXT

LIPA

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 VACANCY
2 TRANSFORMERS	5 DIE HARD 4
3 DIF HARD 4	6 NEXT

DASMARINAS

1 TRANSFORMERS	4 VACANCY
2 THE CONDEMNED	5 DIE HARD 4
3 VACANCY	6 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER 5	7 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4	8 CAPE KARMA

IMUS

1 VACANCY	4 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5	5 DIE HARD 4
3 BUG	6 NEXT

ANGELES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 NEXT
2 VACANCY	
3 BORDERTOWN	

TARLAC

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 VACANCY
2 HARRY POTTER 5	5 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4	6 NEXT
TRANSFORMERS	

STARMILLS

1 BORDERTOWN	4 VACANCY
2 DIE HARD 4	5 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS	6 NEXT

BACOLOD

1 HARRY POTTER 5	5 BUG
2 ZODIAC	6 TRANSFORMERS
3 VACANCY	
4 TRANSFORMERS	
5 RESERVE	
6 DIF HARD 4	

ILOILO

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY	5 BUG
3 DIE HARD 4	6 TRANSFORMERS

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EMILIO Garcia receives a drop shot from captain Phillip Salvador behind his breath.

PHILLIP Salvador (second from L) with

Badm badm

ENTHUSIASTS OF THE GAME [illegible] in Lilo on invitation to [illegible] sports celebrities play "good" [illegible]

The star-studded match was organ[illegible] sports brand Almont, with the Pinoy[illegible] event in capture.

Captain of the celebs was Phillip Sa[illegible] composed of: Junior Marion and [illegible] Jayen, Bratek de la Rosa, Jay Sobrevi[illegible]ca, Glenda Garcia, Pinky Garcia, Isel[illegible] Isabel Artiles, Bebot Lim-it, JC Intal, [illegible] Mandy Ochoa, Bong Revuera and Sylve[illegible]

Weapa Arroyo and Margie-ann Vega [illegible] players group, which consisted of: Ch[illegible] Serrano, Margie de la Rosa, Kelly De[illegible] Knighted, Cielo Lagmani, Gigi Lalley, [illegible] Mercado, Kat Reyes, Shara Reyes, Sheng[illegible] and Bianca Mikaheros.

ISABEL G[illegible] proves she [illegible] her bewitch[illegible]

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 HARRY POTTER: [illegible]
2 HARRY POTTER: [illegible]
3 VACANCY
4 TRANSFORMERS
PREMIERE THEATRE
DIE HARD 4.0

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DIE HARD 4.0 – PG13		
TRANSFORMERS – PG	PLANET TERROR – R18	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX – PG

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CRISALDO PABLO'S

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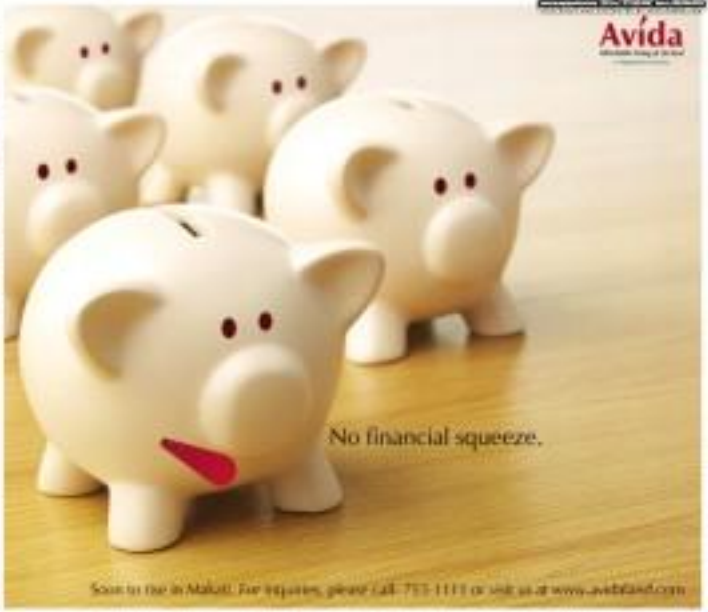
minton,
minton!

PRETTY BOPAL Former beauty queen Mayrol Morales, playing with a pink racket, has a pink skirt and pink shoes, and carried a purple badminton bag.

JESTONE with partner TV doctor Tess Dardo, for the guys for the kill.



A BACKHAND save by Jovann Alarcon. The complete goalkeeper and dart player makes the pick-up.

WHERE DID IT GO? Patrick dela Rosa looks on for the ball.

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Third Cinemalaya film fest opens today

By Maricelle Cruz

FILM ENTHUSIASTS bound for the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Roxas Blvd. today to catch the opening ceremony of the third Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival will have to come their hour early.

Festival director Nestor Jardin says preparations are ongoing for the 4:00 p.m. Ultramodern Meeting, which will be held at the CCP theater, long week, and security will be extremely tight.

Jardin advises guests to pass through the Little Theater gate entrance on Mrs. Cruz Street. Those coming from Makati City may take the Osmeña Macapagal Boulevard since Roxas Avenue will be closed to motorists.

Opening ceremony

The opening rites at the CCP Main Theater today at 8 p.m. will be followed by the screening of Lester Hendrick's acclaimed full-length feature, "Foster Child."

"I'm so excited about this year's festival," Jardin, also the president of CCP told Inquirer Entertainment on Wednesday. "The opening ceremony has a unique concept, following this year's theme 'The New Breed.' I don't want to describe it and spoil the surprise."

Nine films will be competing in the full-length category and 10 in the short feature category. The winning of the Best Full-Length Film Award will receive a P200,000 grant and the full-length trophy while the Best Short Film awardee will bring home a P100,000 grant and trophy.

Winners will be announced on July 20 at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo.

World premieres

This year's festival is also highlighted by the world premieres of independent films like "Sarolee" (Marilou Diaz-Abaya), "Legal" (Arnold Reyes), "Care for Survivors" (Nes Bautista), "Thanggang Dito Na Lamang at Hintayong Sobrang" (Lino Tabada), "Nine-Nine" (Bong Bernal), "FBI" (Dr. Jaime Ongsiat (Mes Adlawan), "Kim Mark, Wag-sumuggal Ako!" (Gio Babila) and "Nice Timmes Meets Delgado" (Ben Hibaldal).

A total of 120 films will be screened, including "Blocked" (Jeo Bustamil), "Care Home" (Odette Sarille), "Stars of Love" (Eddie Romero), "Intermin" (Lee Bala), "Southernaire" (comedian film by 20 filmmakers), "Young Yan" (Dibs Bigsing Aves and Brenda Wilson), "Kabilin," "Maestro" (Bellaire Rhodes), "La Vita Loca" (Mark Meily), "Hinuni si Pinuni" (Eddie Romero), "Numbalikbat" (Bobby Soriano), "Sa Ilalim ng Lupin Ilaw Sarile), "Kapatawarak" (Elmer dela Cruz), "Sana Bukas Pa Ang Kahapon," "Bala Bala Bala" (Jun Santos) and "Salon" (Jerold Tarog).

Ticket prices are P100 for regular screenings of competition and exhibition films and P120 for gala or premiere.

FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR OF SAW MANIA'S "THE GROUDGE" & "THE RING" & SAMUEL CAMERON'S "THE ALIEN"

THE LAST NOISE THAT YOU'LL HEAR IS THE SOUND OF YOUR SCREAM.

WHITE NOISE: THE LIGHT

NOW SHOWING

UNDERWORLD star KATE BECKINSALE in a new thriller

NOW SHOWING

KATE BECKINSALE LUKE WILSON

VACANCY

FREETYLE plays at Bellevue Hotel tonight.

Pinoy, Chinese, Russian acts in one show

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST TRIADES talents team up with internationally renowned performers from China and Russia in "Wonders"—a journey like musical adventure inspired by classic stage productions around the world.

The show combines elements of theatric dance and the circus and stars Nina Burmeister, Cedric Millado, Fernalito De Whitfield, Vertigo and the Bluesmoves, along with acrobats from China's Henan province and jazz and ballet dancers from Russia and Belarus.

The event marks the state opening from DSCOM's venture into family entertainment, with an eye on promoting tourism in the country.

"Wonders" goes onstage at 8 p.m. every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the DSCOM Grand Theater, Airport Centre, Newtown City. Call 852-7714 to 16.

SHOW TIME

Bands at Manila Pavilion

Manila Pavilion Hotel's Seafront Tavern & Lounge has prepared the following performers for the month of July:

Caprice on Monday; GR on Tuesday; Mystic Secret on Wednesday; Mystic Cove on Thursday; Tribe of Fun Fridays; and the Marauders on Saturday.

The Manila Pavilion Hotel is at UN Ave. Ext. in Manila. Call 526-1111 extension 2207.

Freestyle at Bellevue Hotel

Freestyle plays '80s music with R&B covers and originals tonight at the 20/20 Bar, Bellevue Hotel, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

Mid-tours

Mark Seymour previews his album "Every Sun and Then" at SM Megamall on July 20.

Jed Madela's "Only Human" album mall tour goes to SM North EDSA on July 22.

Tonight

DJ and Mesmerizada at KITV Bar. Call 899-1058.

Beats 70 at Mody's Bar.

Wine at Eastwood City Central Plaza, 6 p.m.

The Compard at Capitol's Bld. Mezzanine bar), 9 p.m.

Tomorrow

Jazzy Rendon of Mellow at CEC Deli Cafe, Ekonkia

Family Affair at Mody's Bistro

Freestyle at Eastwood Central Plaza, 6 p.m.

July 23

MC Mastering at KITV Bar. Call 899-1058.

Family Affair at Mody's Bistro

July 24

Dale Advance at KITV Bar. Call 899-1058.

Aretha and Anabel Dar Band at Mody's Bistro

Richard Dee at Fusion Circle, Eastwood City, 8 p.m.

July 25

Instrumental Nite at KITV Bar. Call 899-1058.

Morgan Aguilar with Rhythm D.C. Deli Cafe, Ekonkia

Richard Merk and Friends at Mody's Bar

The Shambolik at Fusion Circle, Eastwood City

July 26

The Members at Fusion Circle, Eastwood City

July 27

The Orient at Eastwood City Central Plaza

The Compard at Mezzanine, 8 p.m. Call 911-5555

July 31

Richard Dee at Fusion Circle, Eastwood City

Fil-Am actress Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron turn heads at 'Hairspray' bash

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Roberto V. Nogales

LONDON—SEEING "MAMMA MIA!" AGAIN, this time here at the Prince of Wales Theatre, reminded us of how fun and joyous this musical is.

This play based on the songs of ABBA, is being turned into a movie, starring no less than the greatest actress of our time, **Meryl Streep**, in the lead role of **Donna Sheridan**. Meryl has sung in such films as "Frankie Goes Civilization" and "Postcards from the Edge." This is the first time she sings throughout the movie.

It will also be interesting to see and hear these chart-busting songs **Pierce Brosnan** (as love interest), **Colin Firth** (Harry), **Christine Baranski** (Tanya), **Stellan Skarsgard** (Bill), **Julie Walters** (Rosie) and **Dominic Cooper** (Sky).

Reportedly beating the likes of **Mandy Moore** and **Rachel McAdams** for the role of Sophie, daughter of Meryl's character, is **Amanda Seyfried**. The lanky young actress has appeared on such TV series as "Veronica Mars," "Big Love" and "All My Children." We can't wait to see this movie, which is scheduled for release next year.

Happily detained

REPTOR was left for London, we got "detained" at the premiere party of another musical-turned-film, "Hairspray," at the OLIA (University of California, Los Angeles) Athletic Union.

In keeping with the early 1960s high school setting of the musical film, the invitations came in the form of pink detention slips. Guests had fun ticking authentic yellow school boxes from the screening to the party site. The venue, a student union building, had the vibe of a high school cafeteria.

Welcoming the guests were girls dressed in hoop skirts and tossed bandos. They hold banner capsy cans, courtesy of Sebastian. They upstaged Usher Church Fashionpop on the basis of extreme willing to really get into the 1960s bouffant spirit.

Onstage, a 14-piece band named Splash, featuring a trio of mini-skirted vocalists, played hits by the Supremes, Nancy Sinatra and other artists from the era. Beautycons (doesn't that term sound so '60s?) were kept busy teasing the hair of female guests. Food, of course, was cafeteria fare. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and lemon-ade and cheese were piled by the servers on trays. Voted by participants.

Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens are caught holding hands at the "Hairspray" bash

One of the first stars to arrive was Scott Schuman, with his lovely wife, Bryan. The Oscar and Golden Globe winner excitedly told us that he will be doing Ish, a Filipino musical set that he practices as a hobby, in his next movie with Jude Law, "Repossession Mambo." The self-spoken, genial actor added that he might bring on his Fil-Amrhall teacher as a light consultant to the Filipinisms actors use the film.

That kind of movie

"I think anything all the time I was watching the movie," Zanuy said of "Hairspray." "It's that kind of film."

Starring heads were Zac Efron, the high school hunk in the film and Hi-Arn actress **Vanessa Hudgens**, his co-star in Disney Channel's "High School Musical." The young couple held hands as they schmoozed around the room. Zac recently made headlines when he was cast as the character of **Kevin Bacon** in the all-out musical remake of the film, "Footloose."

Zac and Vanessa recent in the sequel of "High School Musical," which hows out on Aug. 17.

Holding court in one corner was **Michelle Pfeiffer**, the movie's glamorous villain, posing in a cream-colored dress. Michelle moved to the live inside as she stood beside her adopted daughter, Claudia Rose, a baby at just at 1/4. Also on hand to support the 49-year-old actress were her husband, Emmy award-winning producer David E. Kelley, and her sister, actress **Dedee Pfeiffer**, "Hairspray" cast members **Amanda Symons** and **Brittany Snow**.

Playful director

DIRECTOR **Adam Shankman**, in a celebratory mood, came by Michelle's table and put his head on the actress' pretty bare shoulders as cameras clicked away.

We hoped that **John Travolta** would come as his boundless character, Edna Turnblad, but he chose to look sedate in a suit jacket. So his wife, actress **Kelly Preston**, did not have to compete with one of Edna's glittering outfits in the movie. Kelly had the spotlight to herself in her shimmering dress.

Each there been an award for the most colorfully dressed guest, **John Waters**, who directed the original "Hairspray" movie with the late transvestite Divine in the fallen role, would have won, hands down. You can't miss the man with the fashionable pencil-thin mustache. In his red-and-pink printed jacket, red shirt and purple tie, fit and Bobb John, who was "Big" Kimbad in the first film, made cameo appearances in the most memorable of "Hairspray."

The new Tracy, Nikki Blonsky, was a bundle of smiles and prettiness in her course. She gushed that the most exciting part of this day was her walk on the red carpet before the screening.

Entering her moment as a big, blonde bombshell was **Queen Latifah**. She had her blonde wig flowing down instead of the updo style she keeps in the movie as Motor Mamie Maybelle.

But the biggest hunk was dropped by the LA Times, in its coverage of the premiere bash, the paper reported that **John Waters** date was not **Mink Stole**, who appeared in his films, but Johnny Knoxville. Waters said the star of MTV's "Jackass" series? Only in Hollywood, folks.

Email the columnist at tvnjnols_1505@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Pajama Report," on www.inquirer.net/pajamareport

INSIDE

In bed with sexy Jen
Homebody /G4

LIVING Stars

SUBIC WHEN SHE SIZZLES

CHERRY PIE PICACHE

MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ

BEVERLY SALVIEJO

TAIL TALES

Shakey's
Dine'n Drive
Raffle Promo

1st Prize
The all-new
2007 Honda CR-V

2nd Prize
2 Hong Kong trip packages
for 2 (4 days, 3 nights)

3rd Prize
10 Acer Laptops

4th Prize
10 Nokia N73e
Music Editions

5th Prize
10 30G Apple iPods

6th Prize
10 Sony DSC-S650
Cybershot Cameras

Consolation Prize
100 Shakey's Gift Certificates
worth P1,000 each

Every Php 500
purchase with
a whole pizza order
gives you a chance
to win
the all-new 2007
Honda CR-V!

Promo period:
A from May 1 to July 31, 2007
Draw date is on August 5, 2007
Deadline for the submission of entries
is July 31, 2007

For DTI NCR Permit No. 11 56
Series of 2007

See outlets and bores for details.

It's gotta be
Shakey's

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFIN — BY JOSS ASHEIN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK HUDDENBELL

LOVEWHOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

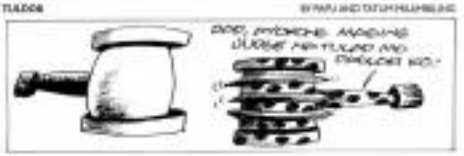
ATOMO AND WIDDY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANUNUNG

KIKO PINCHINE — BY FRED ABREN

HUGOKOMOS — BY JONNETTE GO

TULDOG — BY RAFU AND TATUM HUMMELGARE



BEN — BY DAN BELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	8		6	7	3		2	
4								9
				1				
1								7
2		6				3		4
9								8
				8				
3								5
	4		3	5	2		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and computer at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	8	4	6	9	5	3	1	7
3	9	6	1	7	8	5	2	4
1	5	7	3	2	4	6	8	9
8	1	2	7	6	3	4	9	5
7	4	3	9	5	1	8	6	2
5	6	9	8	4	2	1	7	3
9	3	5	2	8	6	7	4	1
4	7	8	5	1	9	2	3	6
6	2	1	4	3	7	9	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

CELEBrating Jon de Leon wraps TV's new fiery pair.

DE LEON is "inspired" by Marian as "Marimar."

'Wow' factor

First look at the new 'Marimar'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SNEAK PEEK

"WOW!"

That was the initial reaction of Marian Rivera upon seeing her photographs as "Marimar."

Rivera, who initially seemed saddled by her sweet image, is being transformed into a sultry siren on the show.

"It's exciting," Marian said. "I'm no longer a maiden who's crying all the time."

Dingdong Dantes, begin to Marian's Marimar, noticed the change, too: "It was as if she's like...

MARIAN crumbles and is helped up by a production assistant.

HUGS, the star Pulgoso, says a lot.

...seeing in front of us. She became the character with one click (of the camera)."

Dingdong himself is shedding his hot-and-dour persona for this Pinoy version of the Mexican telenovela.

"For the first time, I'm doing a sexy persona," he admitted. "Also, Sergio is not a goody-goody hero here. He's complicated."

Dingdong testified that the shoot in Subic went smoothly. "It didn't rain."

"The new hands-on couple (is) still obviously.

"Dingdong took care of me and made sure I was comfortable during breaks," Marian recalled. "Although it was a rainy shoot, he made me feel comfortable."

She also clicked with Nigel, the golden Retriever playing Pulgoso, the talking dog.

"Nigel visited me at home and we had a bonding session," she recounted.

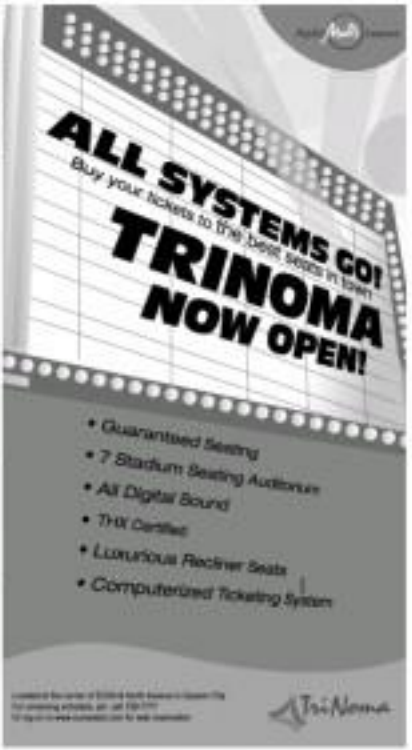
MARIAN and Dingdong check out their "sizzling" shoot on the MacBook.

KATRINA cozies up to her screen partner, Richard Gomez, who plays Renato (Dingdong's dad in the series).

MARILYN Reyes is Corazon, the loyal nanny.

NADINE Samonte is Innocencia.

KATRINA Halili plays the role of the sex-crazed angelic Angelika.



LIVING Stars

If she had her way, this Pinay German-beauty would stay in her room all day, watching TV with any of her four beloved dogs

SHE LOVES her bedroom and admits that she can be lazy on her days off.

In bed with Jen

HOME BODY

STUNNER in a tight pink mini. The chandelier is another old piece.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jon Victor Penalosa

JEN RIEDINGER, A FILIPINO-German beauty, isn't ashamed to admit she's a homebody.

"I used to like partying when my family lived in Germany. But when we moved back to the Philippines [when I was 14], I quickly adapted to local ways," she explains.

She treats the bar become documentated.

"When I have no work, I just stay home," says the new Glida 7 Asian Cancer contestant. "I love my room. I usually stay in bed and watch TV all day. I'm so lazy!"

Her favorite shows are "Grey's Anatomy," "Heroes" and "Prison Break."

At the foot of her bed, rare Somerillon named Black and Silky stand guard.

Yani moves West, not only in Jen's personality, but also in her San Juan townhouse.

"I'm planning to redecorate soon," she says. "I'm torn between modern and Oriental."

Bargain haunts

Jen's leaning toward Asian décor, though.

She bought the throw pillow covers embroidered with Indian elephants in a timeshare voyage. Same with the Thai silk table cloth in the dining room.

"I often find good buys in Cinema Villa... as affordable," she exclaims.

An ukay-ukay visit on a spree when she visited Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, recently with her parents (dad's German and mom's Filipina). "My mom bought lots of silk stuff," she says.

Jen herself bought nine bottles of traditional wine—snake inside (preserved by pouring vodka and a scorpion, too. "We're people with arthritis and high blood pressure. I gave away seven to friends and kept two in my Chinese wine cabinet."

Ah, the Chinese cabinet.

She relates: "My mom gave it to me. I like old furniture, but not ancient ones. I'm afraid that some antique pieces may come with ghosts!"

The 1930s style Westinghouse electric fan on top of the cabinet is a birthday present from her boyfriend's father. "From his extensive collection," Jen notes.

The Rossi Caingler painting in the dining room is a birthday gift from her boyfriend's mom.

Earth-sign colors

She found the wooden figures in Palawan; the cat ceramic in a Mandaluyong jar store.

"Since I bought lots of big jars, the cat ceramic was given to me first," she recalls. "I'm partial to earth colors—lots of browns. A friend thinks it's because I'm a Virgo; an earth sign."

"But I'm an Pinay, she realizes. Earthy roots, grounded.

HENRI Caingler painting is a gift from her boyfriend's mom; silk table cloth is from Greenhills.

IN JET bedside reading table, with framed photos Jen loading ever with rapper Ja Rule.

THE OTHER, less busy, bedside reading table.

CHINESE from Jen's trip to Hanoi, Vietnam

A SELF-ADMITTED foodie, she keeps lots of snacks in the kitchen.

HER LIVING room is done in earth colors; Indian elephant throw pillow covers are from a Greenhills bargain.

HER WINE collection (including two 9-year Vietnam rice wines and, each with a surprise, inside) is kept in an antique Chinese cabinet that her mom gave her.

Echo's other dream

THE ACTOR-HOSMYST, 8, skits away every chance he gets, resulting in an amazing mix of snapshots.

JERICHO ROSALES SAYS HE'S having enough time for photography is one of his biggest frustrations.

The actor-singer took up the hobby five years ago, when a cinematographer friend encouraged him to buy his first single lens reflex camera. "I've been hooked since," Echo tells Living Stars.

He notes that, because of acting and singing engagements, he has not been taking pictures lately. He say he should get back on track, judging from those recorded photos that he has shared with Living Stars.

Echo dreams of building his own resort called Anino (for "Night man," he says. "I don't think I have enough material."

HOBBIES